



## AGENDA

**Regular Meeting of the Village of Tahsis Council  
to be held on April 21, 2026 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers  
Municipal Hall, 977 South Maquinna Drive and by electronic means**

**Remote Access**                    **To attend this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams/ phone  
Join the Village of Tahsis Microsoft Teams Meeting  
[Click here to join the meeting](#)  
Or call in (audio only)  
Toronto, Canada  
+1 437-703-5480  
Phone Conference ID: 693 613 527#**

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**A. Call to Order**                    **Mayor Davis will call the meeting to order.**

**Land Acknowledgement**                    **Mayor Davis will acknowledge and respect that we are meeting upon Mowachaht/Muchalaht territory.**

**B. Introduction of Late Items**                    None.

**C. Approval of the Agenda**

**D. Petitions and Delegations**

**E. Public Input #1**

**F. Adoption of the Minutes**                    **1 April 7, 2026 Standing Committee of Business Liaison Minutes**

**2 April 7, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

**3 April 8, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

**G. Rise and Report**

**H. Business Arising**      **1 Report to Council Re: Updated Strategic Economic Development Plan and Action plan and attachments.**

**J. Council Reports**      **1 Mayor Davis**  
**2 Councillor Fowler**  
**3 Councillor Northcott**  
**4 Councillor Lenahan**  
**5 Councillor Moore**

**K. Bylaws**      **1 Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 681, 2026 Adoption**

**L. Correspondence**      **1 April 1st and April 2nd, 2026 letters from Lynn Gordon to Mayor and Council Re: Tourism.**

**M. New Business**      **1 None.**

**Public Input # 2**

**Rise and Report**

**O. Adjournment**



Minutes

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**Meeting**                    **Standing Committee of Business Liaison**  
**Date**                        **April 7, 2026**  
**Time**                         **10:01 a.m.**  
**Place**                        **Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means**

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**Committee Members**                    Councillor Ryan Moore, Committee Chair  
    Councillor Brenda Lenahan, Committee Vice Chair  
    Linda Jordan, Local Business Community Representative  
    Sheryl Roger, Local Business Community Representative  
    Amit Sharma, Local Business Community Representative                    by video

**Absent**                                        Dan Dahling, Local Business Community Representative

**Council**                                        Martin Davis, Mayor

**Staff**    Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer (Ex Officio)  
    Paige Sawyer, Economic Development Coordinator (Ex Officio)                    by video  
    Janet StDenis, Corporate Services Manager (Ex Officio)                    by video

**Public**    None.

**Call to Order**

Councillor Moore called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**Land Acknowledgement**

Councillor Moore acknowledged and respected that the Standing Committee of Business Liaison is meeting upon Mowachaht/Muchalaht territory.

**Introduction of Late Items**

None.

**Approval of the Agenda**

**Lenahan: COW 0026/2026**

**THAT** the Agenda for the April 7, 2026 Standing Committee of Business Liaison be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

H. Business  
Arising

1 **Draft Strategic Economic Development Plan and Action Plan and presentation to support the Committee's review**

**Lenahan: COW 0027/2026**

**THAT** the Draft Strategic Economic Development Plan and Action Plan be received for review; and **THAT** the committee receive the staff presentation.

**CARRIED**

The CAO presented the draft Strategic Economic Development Plan (SEDP) and Action Plan (Draft 2026 Update). Topics covered included: the need for the update; the update process; key changes to the strategic priorities; the shifting of the strategic focus; changes to the strategic goals; implementation risks; changes to governance and updates to the Action Plan.

Committee members expressed concerns about the lack of specific, actionable items such as beautification, clean-up, signage and trail maintenance.

The distinction between operational and policy actions were debated. The SEDP was premised on Council's policy-setting role and does not include operational items.

Committee members discussed the process by which their original action plan was reviewed and edited before being presented to Council, expressing concerns about the committee's input not being presented.

The committee discussed attaching the committee's original action plan as an appendix to the updated plan for Council's review, allowing council to review both the draft updated SEDP and action plan and the committee's action plan.

The committee discussed the availability and use of the economic development funds for actionable items like signage and beautification.

**Lenahan: COW 0028/2026**

**Whereas** this Committee does not fully endorse the updated draft Strategic Economic Development Plan and associated action plan; **Be it resolved THAT** the last draft of the Committee's Strategic Economic Development Plan and Action Plan be provided as its comments to Council.

**CARRIED**

Committee member Dan Dahling who was unable to attend today's meeting asked that the committee to consider moving the committee meeting dates.

**2 Items to be discussed at the next Standing Committee of Business Liaison Meeting.**

**Moore: COW 0029/2026**

**THAT** the Standing Committee of Business Liaison discuss the following items at the next meeting:

-trails

-fundraising

-signage

**CARRIED**

**Adjournment**

**Lenahan: COW 0030/2026**

**THAT** the Standing Committee of Business Liaison adjourn at 11:37 a.m.

**CARRIED**

**Certified Correct this**

21st day of April, 2026

Chief Administrative Officer



Minutes

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<u>Meeting</u>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<u>Date</u>	<b>April 7, 2026</b>
<u>Time</u>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<u>Place</u>	<b>Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means</b>

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<u>Present</u>	Mayor Martin Davis Councillor Sarah Fowler Councillor Brenda Lenahan Councillor Ryan Moore Councillor Cheryl Northcott	7:04 by video  by video
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<u>Staff</u>	Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer Janet StDenis, Corporate Services Manager	by video
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<u>Guests</u>	Natalie Dickson, Principal, Captain Meares Elementary Secondary School
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<u>Public</u>	10 members of the public.	7 by video
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**A. Call to Order** Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Land Acknowledgement**

Mayor Davis acknowledged and respected that Council is meeting upon Mowachah/ Muchalaht territory.

**B. Introduction of Late Items** None.

**C. Approval of the Agenda**

<p><b>Moore/Fowler: VOT 0141/2026</b>  <b>THAT</b> the Agenda for the April 7, 2026 Regular meeting of Council be adopted as presented.</p>	<p><b>CARRIED</b></p>
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**D. Delegation**

<p><b>Captain Meares Elementary Secondary School (CMESS) Presentation on the 2026-2027 School Growth Plan</b></p> <p><b>Moore/Fowler: VOT 0142/2026</b>  <b>THAT</b> this presentation be received.</p>	<p><b>CARRIED</b></p>
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Natalie Dixon, principal of CMESS, presented the 2026-2027 School Growth Plan, emphasizing the importance of community and stakeholder input into the plan and outlined the process for gathering feedback through surveys targeting students, families, staff and local leadership.

Attachment # 1 CMESS Presentation

**E. Public Input # 1**

A member of the public spoke to a recent CMESS event.

**F. Adoption of the Minutes**

**1 March 17, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0143/2026**

**THAT** the Regular Council Meeting minutes of March 17, 2026 be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**G. Rise and Report**

None.

**H. Business Arising**

**1 Report to Council Re: Capital Projects Status Report**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0144/2026**

**THAT** this Report to Council be received.

**CARRIED**

The CAO provided council with an update on the status of major capital projects, including the completion of the Waste Water Treatment Project, the Fire Hall Project, and the Tourist Centre Upgrade Project as well as the current status of Phase 3 of the Flood Protection Project and the Community Boat Launch Project.

Phase 3 of the Flood Protection Project received a letter from Fisheries and Oceans Canada confirming the project as described will not violate the Fisheries Act as long as the steps are taken to avoid and mitigate non-compliance.

The Community Boat Launch is set to open to the public with the project approximately 90-95% complete.

Council discussed the seasonal nature and accessibility of the new washroom for the Community Boat Launch and potential upgrades. Council also discussed other possible amenities.

Council debated the introduction of fees for the community boat launch and the establishment of a reserve fund to finance future maintenance and replacement.

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0145/2026**

**THAT** Council establish a reserve fund for the Community Boat Launch.

**CARRIED**

**Lenahan/Moore: VOT 0146/2026**

**THAT** as budget updates become clear on the Community Boat Launch Project Council will have a further discussion regarding amenities with the remaining grant funds.

**CARRIED**

**2 Report to Council Re: Tahsis Museum and Visitor Information Centre Reopening Plan Project.**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0147/2026**

**THAT** this Report to Council be received.

**CARRIED**

The CAO presented three options for reopening the museum- a Tahsis Heritage Society -led model, a village-led model, and a formal partnership agreement between the Village and the Tahsis Heritage Society. The pros and cons of each option were discussed.

The Visitor Information Centre is targeted for opening in June 2026 while the museum's full reopening may be phased, starting with basic displays and expanding as resources and agreements allow.

**Reopening Plan Options:**

**Moore/Fowler: VOT 0148/2026**

**THAT** option # 3 be approved (that the Village and Tahsis Heritage Society negotiate and enter into a formal agreement defining roles, responsibilities, expectations for the planning, development, and ongoing operation of the museum before proceeding with the next phase of the work).

**CARRIED**

**Funding Options:**

The reopening plan estimates \$15,000 in costs, with \$4,500 allocated to the Visitor Information Centre and \$10,500 for the museum.

Council emphasized the importance of involving the Tahsis Heritage Society and local First Nations in exhibit development and decision-making, with plans to consult further and seek grant opportunities for museum enhancements.

A reserve fund for Visitor Information Centre's physical infrastructure was proposed to ensure long-term maintenance and replacement.

**Lenahan/Fowler: VOT 0149/2026**

**THAT** option # 4 be approved (that the Visitor Information Centre reopen in 2026 using \$4500 from the Economic Development Reserve Fund).

**CARRIED**

**3 Report to Council Re: Road Safety Program Strategic Priority- ICBC Requirements and Implications.**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0150/2026**

**THAT** this Report to Council be received.

**CARRIED**

The CAO presented to Council the requirements and implications for proceeding with the Road Safety Strategic Priority. Topics discussed included: ICBC funding and financial implications; installation and maintenance requirements; and staff capacity and project timing.

Concerns were expressed about speeding near the school and the playground zones, emphasizing the need for concrete data (which can be obtained from the speed reader boards) and enforcement.

Alternate safety measures such as improved signage and the RCMP involvement in safety education were discussed.

**Fowler/Lenahan**

**THAT** option # 3 be approved (defer this Strategic Priority to 2027).

**MOTION  
FAILED**

**Registered "no  
vote"**

**Councillor  
Moore**

**Registered "no  
vote"**

**Councillor  
Northcott**

**Registered "no  
vote" Mayor  
Davis**

**Moore/**

**THAT** Option #2 be approved (fund this Strategic Priority by increasing 2026 property taxes).

**MOTION  
FAILED**

**J. Council Reports**

**Mayor Davis**

No report.

**Councillor Northcott**

No report.

**Councillor Lenahan**

No report.

**Councillor Moore**

No report.

**Councillor Fowler**

Please include this one pager from the March 4, 2026 Webinar- Union of BC Municipalities/BC Wildfire Service webinar regarding Wildfire Act policy engagement related to prevention regulation.

**Attachment #2 Municipal Feedback on regulating activities that cause wildfires.**

Also, Look for Nootka Sound Watershed Society hats at the Derby this year. At the March 21st Nootka Sound Watershed Society Strategic Priority Planning meeting hats were distributed.

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0151/2026**

**THAT** the Council Reports be received.

**CARRIED**

**K. Bylaws**

**1 Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 681, 2026**

**1st, 2nd and 3rd Readings**

The CAO outlined the key aspects of the bylaw which included: increasing the minimum number of nominators from two to ten; adoption of the provincial voter's list, specifying one advance voting day, and repealing previous related bylaw to ensure compliance with the Local Government Act.

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0152/2026**

**THAT** Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 681, 2026 be received for consideration.

**CARRIED**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0153/2026**

**THAT** Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 681, 2026 receive a first reading this 7th day of April, 2026.

**CARRIED**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0154/2026**

**THAT** Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 681, 2026 receive a second reading this 7th day of April, 2026.

**CARRIED**

**Moore/Fowler: VOT 0155/2026**

**THAT** Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 681, 2026 receive a third reading this 7th day of April, 2026.

**CARRIED**

**L. Correspondence**

**1 March 17, 2026 email from Montana Scotties to Village Council of Tahsis Re: Community Event Proposal - " Smoke on the Harbour" Drift Event.**

**2 March 18, 2026 email from Mayor Sid Tobias, Town of View Royal to Mayor and Council Re: Judicial Review Coalition Update- Provincial Housing Legislation (Bills 44, 27, 13, 15, and M216).**

3 **March 19, 2026 email from ParticipACTION Re: 2026 ParticipACTION Community Challenge presented by Novo Nordisk- \$1000 Grant.**

4 **March 6, 2026 email from Colin Boyd, Regional Director, Canadian Heritage Re: Celebrate Canada Funding - \$2040 Grant.**

5 **March 27, 2026 email sent from Comox Strathcona Waste Management to Mayor and Council Re: Draft Solid Waste Management Plan.**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0156/2026**

**THAT** these correspondence item be received.

**CARRIED**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0157/2026**

**THAT** correspondence item(s) 1 and 3 be pulled for discussion.

**CARRIED**

L1 **March 17, 2026 email from Montana Scotties to Village Council of Tahsis Re: Community Event Proposal - " Smoke on the Harbour" Drift Event.**

Councillor Moore spoke to this correspondence item noting the Village's unsuitable terrain for drifting, potential noise and pollution and lack of community support.

L3 **March 19, 2026 email from ParticipACTION Re: 2026 ParticipACTION Community Challenge presented by Novo Nordisk- \$1000 Grant.**

Councillor Fowler thanked staff for taking the time to complete this grant application.

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0158/2026**

**THAT** correspondence item #5 also be pulled for discussion.

**CARRIED**

L5 **March 27, 2026 email sent from Comox Strathcona Waste Management to Mayor and Council Re: Draft Solid Waste Management Plan.**

The CAO spoke to this correspondence item noting the request from CSWM staff to present and discuss the contents of the draft Solid Waste Management Plan at a future council meeting.

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0159/2026**

**THAT** CSWM staff be invited to present to Council the draft Solid Waste Management Plan.

**CARRIED**

**March 24, 2026 email and template letter from Brodie Guy, CEO, Island Economic Trust to Mayor Davis Re: Request for a letter of Support.**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0160/2026**

**THAT** this email and request for a letter of support be received and considered.

**CARRIED**

Mayor Davis spoke to this request from Island Coastal Economic Trust's (ICET) for a letter of support to obtain sustainable provincial funding for the trust.

**Moore/Fowler: VOT 0161/2026**

**THAT** Council approve sending the template letter from Island Coastal Economic Trust to Minister Kahlon and requesting staff to prepare the letter accordingly for the Mayor's signature, with copies to Anna Kindy, MLA North Island and Island Coastal Economic Trust.

**CARRIED****N. Public Input #2**

A member of the public inquired about speed control measures such as speed bumps and RCMP speed gun availability to which council responded.

The Village's long-term debt servicing percentage was requested. The Director of Finance responded that approximately 2.3% of operating revenues are allocated to long-term debt.

There was a discussion regarding access to the landfill and the Grease Trail during the Perry Bridge repairs to which the CAO responded.

A request was made to improve the visibility and condition of the parking honour box sign down by the boat launch.

Questions were raised about alternative uses for the Tahsis Visitor Information Centre during the off season with suggestions including meeting space and co-working hubs.

**O. Adjournment****Fowler/Moore: VOT 0162/2026**

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**Certified Correct this  
21st day of April, 2026**

**Chief Administrative Officer**



# School Growth Plan

## 2026–2027

*Your Voice Matters*

Village of Tahsis Council | April 7, 2026

# Who we are

**31**

Students  
K-12

**1**

School in  
Tahsis

**7**

Indigenous  
students

Captain Meares Elementary Secondary School is a K-12 school serving families and children on the traditional territory of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation.

**It's important that a school represent goals and hopes of the the community that it serves.**

# Why we're here tonight

- 1 Every BC school must develop a School Growth Plan under the Ministry's Framework for Enhancing Student Learning
- 2 SD84 has a new strategic plan with three priority areas for all schools
- 3 Community input is required — and we want it to be genuine, not a checkbox
- 4 We're starting fresh: asking the community what matters before setting goals

*"We're not asking you to rate us. We're asking you to help us set the direction."*

# Three priority areas

SD84's strategic plan asks every school to set goals in:



## Learning

Student achievement in literacy and numeracy



## Relationships

Belonging, safety, and well-being



## Indigenous Ways of Knowing

Honouring Indigenous perspectives and culture

# What we're asking the community

## **No pre-loaded goals**

The community tells us what to prioritize — we don't start with answers

## **Choice-based survey**

Under each priority area, choose what matters most from real goal themes used across BC

## **Multiple versions**

Adults, plus age-appropriate versions for K–3, Grades 4–7, and Grades 8–12

## **Open to everyone**

Students, families, staff, community members, Elders

# What the survey looks like

## Learning

*“Which learning priorities are most important for our school to focus on next year?”*

Reading • Writing • Math • Critical thinking • Goal-setting • Support • Challenge • Transitions ...

## Relationships

*“What would make CMESS a place where everyone feels safe, valued, and connected?”*

(Open-ended — your own words)

## Indigenous

*“Which priorities related to Indigenous ways of knowing are most important to you?”*

Local history • Land-based learning • Elder relationships • Languages • Reconciliation ...

# Who we're consulting



## Students

All grades, age-appropriate surveys



## Families

Adult survey (online & paper)



## Staff

Teachers and support staff



## Village of Tahsis

Tonight's presentation



## Mowachaht/Muchalaht FN

Rights-holders — territory



## Ehattlesaht First Nation

Rights-holders — students

*First Nations are rights-holders in education, not just stakeholders. We are engaging them directly and respectfully.*

# What we're asking of Council

1

## Receive

this presentation on our school planning process

2

## Help distribute

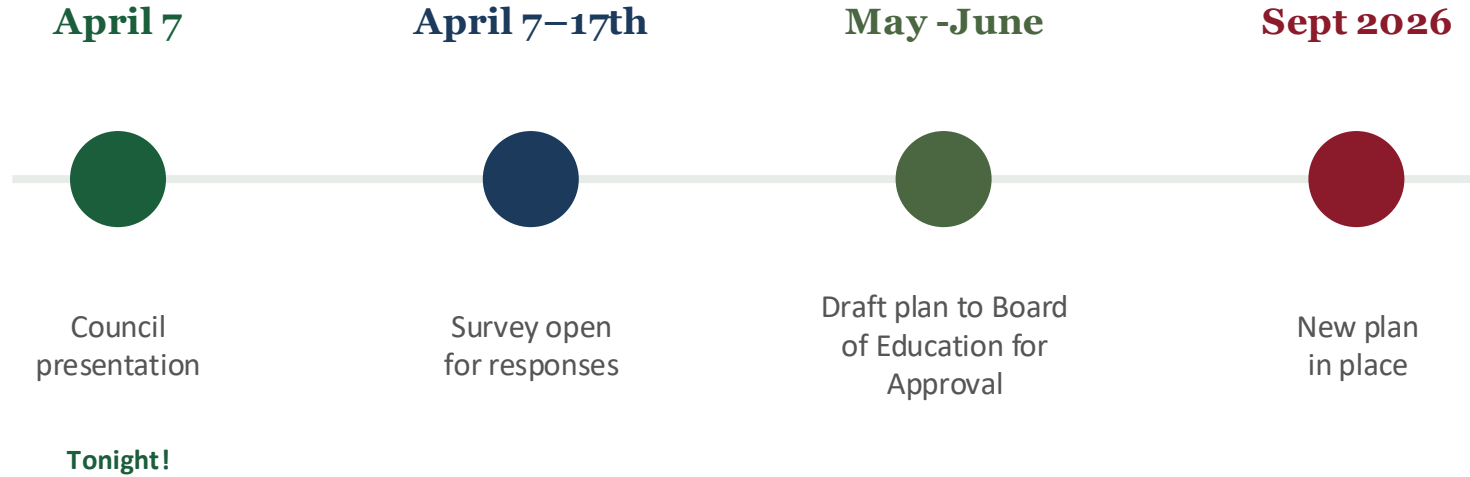
the survey through Village channels — website, social media, newsletter — to reach families and residents

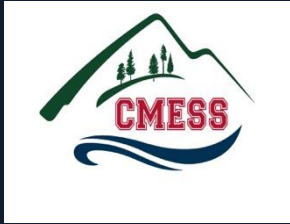
3

## Share your input

Council members are welcome to complete the survey yourselves

# Timeline





# Thank you

*for being part of our school community*

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/m2zj2L5G69>

**Natalie Dickson, Principal**

Captain Meares Elementary Secondary School  
(250) 934-6305 | [ndickson@viw.sd84.bc.ca](mailto:ndickson@viw.sd84.bc.ca)

## Captain Meares Elementary Secondary School - School Goal Planning Survey



# QUICK SUMMARY: Municipal feedback on regulating activities that cause wildfires

## What are municipalities currently regulating?



Open burning



Yard waste management



Fireworks

## Biggest challenges regulating wildfire prevention through bylaw?

**Capacity  
(79%)**

**Communication  
(33%)**

**Authority  
(29%)**

## What's unique about regulating wildfire within municipal boundaries?

Local authorities/ development considerations (e.g. Wildfire Development Permit Areas, covenants, bylaws)

Jurisdictional overlap (with Crown, private lands, agricultural uses)

Smoke/venting considerations (e.g. high smoke sensitivity zone)

People (e.g. recreation, tourism)



Minutes	Village of Tahsis
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Committee of the Whole- Budget Meeting #6</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>April 8, 2026</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>1 p.m.</b>
<b>Place</b>	<b>Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means</b>

<b>Present</b>	Mayor Martin Davis Councillor Cheryl Northcott Councillor Sarah Fowler Councillor Brenda Lenahan Councillor Ryan Moore	by video   by video
<b>Staff</b>	Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer Adia Mavrikos, CPA, CA, Director of Finance Janet StDenis, Corporate Services Manager	by video by video
<b>Public</b>	2 members of the public	1 by video

**Call to Order**

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Land Acknowledgement**

Mayor Davis acknowledged and respected that Council is meeting upon Mowachaht/ Muchalaht territory.

**Introduction of Late Items**

None.

**Approval of the Agenda**

**Moore: COW 0031/2026**

**THAT** the Agenda for the April 8, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**M. New Business**

**1 2026-2030 Financial Plan/ Budget Meeting #6**

**Moore: COW 0032/2026**

**THAT** this presentation be received.

**CARRIED**

The Director of Finance presented the proposed 2026 Budget, outlining the need for a 12.6 % tax increase, proposed utility rate increases (15% for sewer and 7% for water) and key cost drivers such as a 2.2% cost of living adjustment and debt payments.

Details on the changes since the last budget meeting were provided and included increased allocations for road repairs, 10% increase in fuel costs, the climbing wall and Tahsis Days, the addition of an EOC grant for a fire hall generator and a transfer from the Economic Development Reserve to fund the Visitor Information Centre reopening.

Council debated whether to increase the solid waste user fee, considering the need for reserve contributions for future equipment replacement, and discussed the history of the rate increases.

The Director of Finance led council through a detailed review of the property tax multipliers. Increasing the Utilities property class multiplier to 11.6 and raising both Light Industry and Managed Forests classes to 50 reduces the Resident property class tax rate increase from 12.6% to 11%.

**Moore: COW 0033/2026**

**THAT** the property class tax rate multiples be approved as discussed (Utilities increased to 11.6, Light Industry increased to 50; Managed Forests increased to 50 and Business Other and Recreational remaining unchanged at 4.65 and 6.5 respectively). **CARRIED**

**Moore: COW 0034/2026**

**THAT** the solid waste user rate be increased by 10%. **CARRIED**

**Moore: COW 0035/2026**

**That** a Roads Reserve Fund be established. **CARRIED**

**Moore: COW 0036/2026**

**THAT** a Museum and Visitor Information Centre Reserve Fund be established. **CARRIED**

**Moore: COW 0037/2026**

**THAT** public input be permitted. **CARRIED**

A member of the public asked for clarification on the distinction between the light industry and major industry property class to which staff responded.

There was an inquiry into village owned property. Staff confirmed that the Village owns 32 properties.

**Adjournment**

**Fowler: COW 0038/2026**

**THAT** the meeting adjourn at 2:44 p.m. **CARRIED**

Certified correct this  
21st day of April, 2026

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**Corporate Officer**

# VILLAGE OF TAHSIS

## Report to Council

**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Chief Administrative Officer

**Date:** April 21, 2026

**Re:** Updated Strategic Economic Development Plan and Action Plan

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### **PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To present the proposed updated Strategic Economic Development Plan (SEDP) and Action Plan (AP), along with comments from the Standing Committee for Business Liaison (SCBL), for Council's consideration and decision.

### **OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES**

1. Approve the updated SEDP and AP, as presented.
2. Do not approve the updated SEDP and AP and refer them back to the SCBL for further consideration, with direction to submit revised documents to Council.
3. Consider one or more amendments to the updated SEDP and AP and direct staff to present revised documents at a future Council meeting.
4. Any other option Council deems appropriate.

### **BACKGROUND**

At its October 7, 2025 regular meeting, Council passed the following resolution:

*Fowler/Moore: VOT 0358/2025 — CARRIED*

THAT Option #1 be approved (approve the survey analysis and community consultation report [Appendix A] as presented) and that staff be directed to prepare an updated Strategic Economic Development Plan and Action Plan incorporating the results of the report, and to present the updated plans to the Standing Committee for Business Liaison for review and comment prior to submission to Council.

The SCBL reviewed the draft updated SEDP and AP at its April 7, 2026 meeting and passed the following motion:

*Lenahan: COW 0028/2026 — CARRIED*

WHEREAS the Committee does not fully endorse the updated draft Strategic Economic Development Plan and associated Action Plan;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Committee's most recent draft Strategic Economic Development Plan and Action Plan be provided to Council as its comments.

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## SUMMARY OF CHANGES

The updated SEDP maintains the overall framework of the 2023 plan: **Strategic Priorities, Strategic Focus Areas, and Strategic Goals.**

**Key changes include:**

- **Strategic Priorities (unchanged):**  
People and Investment; Employment Opportunities; Infrastructure
  - **Strategic Focus Areas:**
    - 2023: Forestry, Aquaculture, Tourism, Real Estate, Information Technology
    - 2026: Outdoor Recreation, Municipal Infrastructure, Tourism, Resident Attraction, Connectivity
  - **Strategic Goals:**  
Updated to align with the revised Strategic Focus Areas (see attached plan and presentation for details).
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## COMMUNITY INPUT AND POLICY DIRECTION

In 2025, the Village undertook a comprehensive community consultation process, including surveys, workshops, and stakeholder engagement, to inform the update to the Economic Development Plan.

Key findings include:

- A shift away from sector-specific economic development toward a broader, place-based approach
- Strong emphasis on quality of life as a driver of economic resilience
- Priority areas identified by residents:
  - Outdoor recreation opportunities
  - Condition and capacity of municipal infrastructure
  - Availability of diverse and attainable housing
  - Community cohesion and social connection

The updated SEDP reflects this direction by reframing economic development to emphasize livability and foundational community assets as key drivers of sustainable growth. It recognizes that attracting and retaining residents, workers, and businesses is closely tied to quality of life, connectivity, and access to services and infrastructure.

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## ACTION PLAN

The updated Action Plan:

- Reduces the number of actions from 24 to 17
- Aligns actions more directly with the revised Strategic Goals
- Reflects current organizational capacity and budget constraints

The SCBL's comments are provided in the form of its most recent draft Action Plan, attached for Council's consideration.

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**POLICY/LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS:**

**Council Procedure Bylaw No. 495, 2012** outlines the duties of standing committees, including:

- Considering and reporting on matters related to their mandate
- Making recommendations to Council on assigned matters
- Reporting in accordance with meeting schedules or as directed by Council or the Mayor

The SCBL has fulfilled its advisory role by providing comments on the updated SEDP and AP.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

At its January 20, 2026 meeting, Council reduced SCBL meetings to quarterly to manage staff workload. This was reaffirmed at the March 3, 2026 meeting through an amendment to the meeting schedule.

The January 20, 2026 staff report provides details on staff time previously allocated to supporting the SCBL. Implementation of the SEDP and AP will be subject to annual budget deliberations and available resources.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY:**

While economic development is not identified as a standalone 2026 Council Strategic Priority, it is embedded within several existing priorities, including infrastructure investment and trail development.

**RECOMMENDATION:****Option 1:**

THAT Council approve the updated Strategic Economic Development Plan and Action Plan, as presented

Respectfully submitted:



Mark Tatchell, CAO

**ATTACHMENTS**

- April 21, 2026 Presentation
- 2023 Strategic Economic Development Plan
- 2026 Updated Strategic Economic Development Plan
- 2023 Action Plan
- 2026 Updated Action Plan
- Standing Committee for Business Liaison draft updated Strategic Economic Development Plan and updated Action Plan (submitted as comments on the updated 2026 SEDP and AP)



# Strategic Economic Development Plan and Action Plan (Draft 2026 Update)

Standing Committee for Business Liaison

April 7, 2026

# Why Update the Plan?

- ▶ 2023 Plan – focus on forestry, aquaculture, tourism, real estate and information technology
- ▶ Changing economic conditions and community expectations.
- ▶ Review to ensure continued relevancy and effectiveness

# The Update Process

- ▶ 2025 – comprehensive community consultation
- ▶ Survey, workshops and stakeholder engagement identified shift in priorities
- ▶ Higher value placed on quality-of-life factors and foundational community assets

# 2026 Updated Plan

- ▶ More emphasis on place and infrastructure, e.g., outdoor recreation and connectivity as keys for attracting and retaining residents, workers and businesses
- ▶ Housing and municipal assets key requirements for sustainable growth
- ▶ Livability, inclusivity and long-term wellbeing

# Key changes to SEDP

- ▶ Strategic Priorities – one minor change:
  1. Bringing in people and investment
  2. Creating employment opportunities
  3. Developing and replacing critical infrastructure

# Strategic Focus changes

- ▶ 2023: Forestry, Aquaculture, Tourism, Real Estate and Information Technology
- ▶ 2026: Outdoor Recreation, Municipal Infrastructure, Tourism, Resident Attraction and Connectivity

# Changes to People and Investment<sup>H1</sup> Strategic Goal

- ▶ 2023 – co-working hub, creating a Village-owned corporation to generate economic activity and tourism centered on outdoor recreation.
- ▶ 2026 – attracting remote workers (1 gig internet speed), resident attraction based on QoL and exceptional outdoor tourism activities

# Changes to Employment Opportunities Strategic Goal

- ▶ 2023 – investments in tourism infrastructure to generate employment, leveraging assets to develop local businesses or increase revenues and implement community forest or aquaculture initiatives with MMFN and Gold River
- ▶ 2026 – investments tourism infrastructure to generate employment (same as 2023), partnership opportunities for training and grants and strengthen workforce capacity and businesses with long-term commitment.

# Changes to Infrastructure Strategic Goal<sup>H1</sup>

- ▶ 2023 – paving the HBFSR, investments in strategic assets (Tahsis as “destination”) and investments in housing
- ▶ 2026 – HBFSR improvements (maintenance and capital), investments in strategic assets (same as 2023) and investments in municipal infrastructure to improve QoL.

# Changes to Implementation Risks

- ▶ Minor additions – added more detail to the mitigation strategy for Risk #3 (lack of coordination with regional strategic parties)
- ▶ Added a 4<sup>th</sup> risk: “The program is ineffectual” – economic development is influenced by many factors that are beyond the control of local governments, e.g., interest rates, provincial and federal regulations.
- ▶ Mitigation: focus on areas of importance to private investors – core infrastructure and public health and safety.

# Changes to Governance

- ▶ No changes to Capacity, Strategic Partnerships and Detailed Planning. Reporting to Council changes semi-annually to annually.

# Action Plan Update – Summary

- ▶ 24 to 17 action items
- ▶ Action items aligned with the updated Strategic Focus on: Outdoor Recreation, Municipal Infrastructure, Tourism, Resident Attraction and Connectivity

# People and Investments

- ▶ Resident, worker and business attraction through:
  - Improved connectivity
  - Outdoor recreation amenities
  - Partnerships and marketing

# Employment Opportunities

- ▶ Tourism infrastructure
- ▶ Partnerships for training and grant applications
- ▶ Workforce capacity and supports for businesses

# Infrastructure

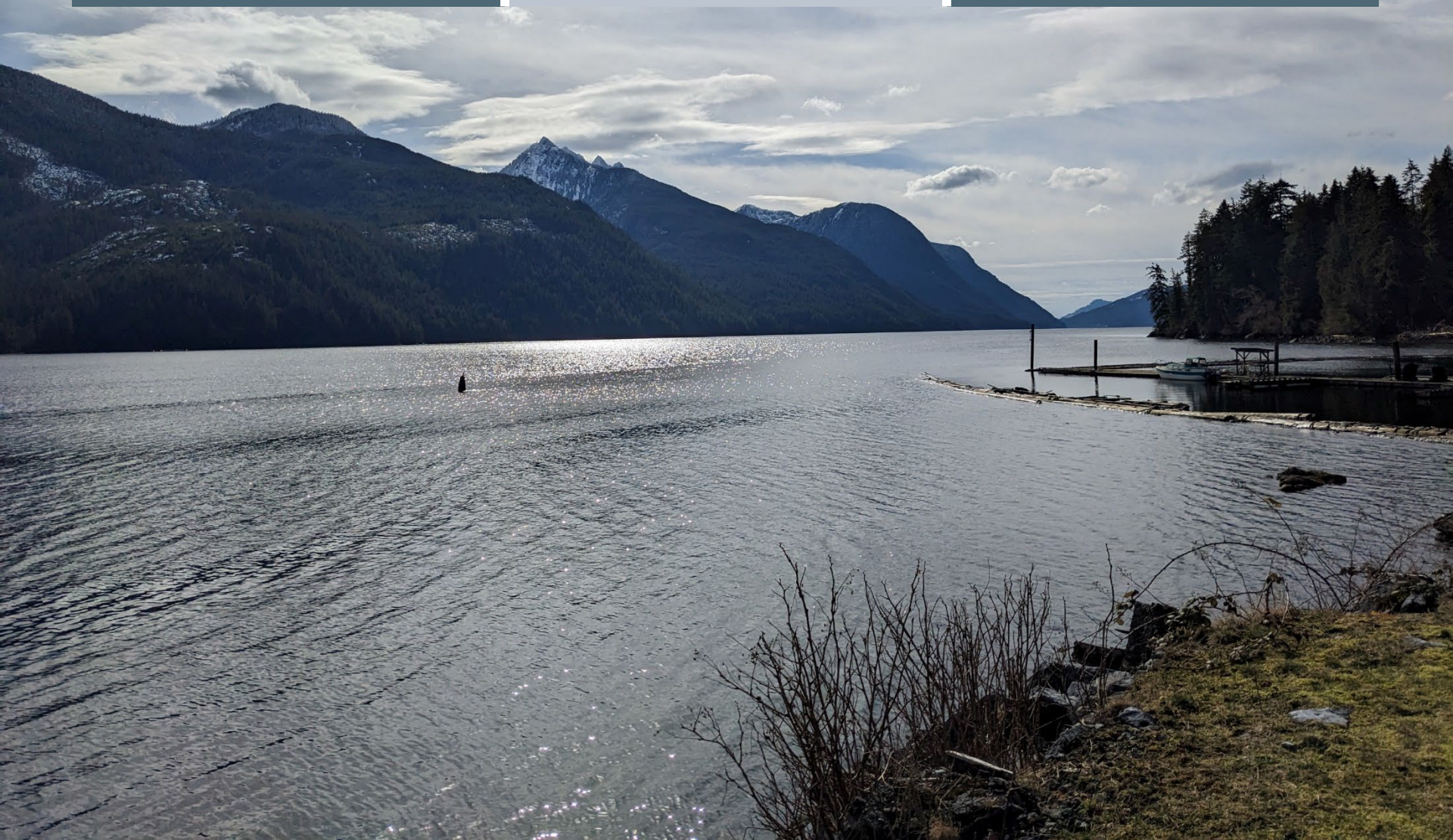
- ▶ HBFSR – maintenance and capital improvement– lobbying coalition
- ▶ Leveraging municipal assets to support tourism growth and QoL
- ▶ Tie economic development related service levels to Asset Management Plan

# Questions?

**Strategic Economic  
Development Plan**

**VILLAGE OF  
TAHSIS**

**Final  
August 2023**



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Introduction & Context

# Introduction

The Village of Tahsis (Tahsis) is a small community with a big vision.

Tahsis is located within the traditional territory of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation, and our region has been home to First Nations peoples for over 4,200 years. The word Tahsis means 'path', indicating our historic role as a trade route across the island.

At its peak, Tahsis was a bustling community of 2,500, built on a booming local forestry industry around two mills located in the Nootka Sound/Esperanza region. In 2023, that population stands at 400, and the economic sustainability of the community faces pressures from an aging population, neglected infrastructure (particularly housing and core infrastructure) and opportunities for local employment.

We have many reasons to be optimistic about our future:

- Our population grew by 100 during the Covid-19 pandemic, one of the fastest rates in BC, as remote working became normal
- Our village is a destination of choice for many seeking a healthier lifestyle or to live out their retirement years
- Our fishing is world class and with our breathtaking natural environment draws a reliable stream of visitors all year
- Our internet will be the same high speed as downtown Vancouver from 2024 through the Connected Coast project
- Our ambitious program of adding and replacing key service infrastructure proactively means we have recently invested in upgrades to water supply, sewage works, flood protection, docks and wharves, and emergency services, among others

This document sets out a 10-year Strategic Economic Development Plan that has the potential to both provide a sustainable and progressive long-term community for future generations and transform our economy.

It is a bold vision, but one that we are committed to delivering to ensure a bright future for the place we are fortunate to call our home.

*"Tahsis is a healthy, thriving community that showcases its spectacular natural environment, recreation opportunities, and indigenous culture, where residents have pride in their community, access to safe, affordable housing, reliable health care, nutritious food, and facilities and services that support all stages of life."*

***Tahsis Vision Statement: Official Community Plan 2019***

# Strategic Framework



# Strategic Framework

## Context

Economic development for Tahsis involves several initiatives linked by a focused strategy for immediate implementation accompanied by medium- and long-term objectives and actions.

Our strategy is based on the following three strategic priorities:

1. Bringing in people and investment.
2. Creating employment opportunities.
3. Developing critical infrastructure.

Our plan cannot be developed in a silo. We are a small community and are reliant on the support of our wider stakeholders to help us achieve our vision. We are committed to embracing a creative and flexible mindset to help us achieve this plan and our goals.

## Purpose

The purpose of this Strategic Economic Development Plan is to set out a coherent strategy for developing the village that can be enacted over time by the Council and community.

The document is written both for our existing and future community, as well as other stakeholders with an interest in our economy, including the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation, whose traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory we gratefully call home.

It sets out a vision for the future, the things that we value and that inform that vision, and a structured planning approach that derives a series of actions that we will undertake to achieve our vision.

# Strategic Framework At-A-Glance

## Mission

Why we exist. This is our purpose.

## Vision

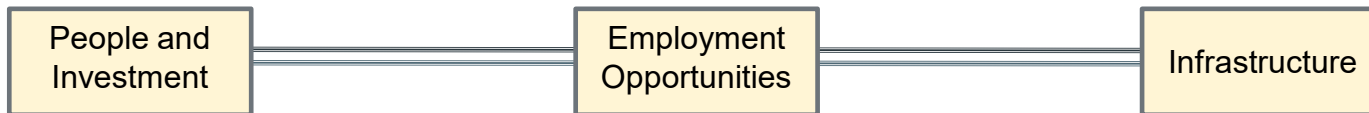
What we want to create for our future.

*Our Values* – How we will work towards our Mission & Vision

*Our Audience* - Who this plan is for

## Strategic priorities

These are the top and high-level priorities that can help us realize our vision and deliver our mission.



## Strategic goals

These are the goals that will support the strategic priorities and set the framework for delivery of specific activities and actions.

## Activities and actions

Activities and actions that directly support the achievement of the strategic priorities and goals, with measurable and achievable outcomes.

## Mission

We exist to serve the residents of Tahsis and preserve our beautiful way of life, ensuring that the needs of our community can continue to be met and evolve sustainably for future generations.

## Vision

Our vision is to create a vibrant, self-sustaining economy, which can continue to provide the very best lifestyle both to our current population and future residents.

## Guiding Values

Our Values will guide us in the application of our Mission and Vision:

*Commitment:* We are committed to each other and collectively protecting the culture, economic development, and best interests of all the residents of Tahsis.

*Accountability:* We do what we say we are going to do and will be accountable for the results.

*Advocacy:* We will advocate hard on behalf of our community with respect to funding and services owed to us by the Provincial and Federal Governments.

*Communication:* We will transparently report progress to our community twice a year or more where necessary.

*Funding:* We will both fund and share opportunity in a fair and transparent way.

*Partnerships:* We will be creative in establishing strategic partnerships with our stakeholders to help us enact this plan in the interests of Tahsis residents.

## Our Audience: 4 groups interested in the success of this plan

### 1. Those primarily responsible for the success of this framework and driving the strategic priorities to achieve the vision

- Village of Tahsis Council

### 2. Those who will benefit from the outcomes of this framework

- The village of Tahsis
- All current and future members of our community
- Visitors to our village
- The communities of Gold River and Zeballos, their leadership and all community members, present and future
- All business and employers in the region
- The communities of Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation (MMFN) and Ehattesaht/Chinehkint First Nation, their leadership and all members, present and future
- Current and future residents of the wider region
- All natural ecosystems in the region and everything that lives in them

### 3. Those who need to interact with this framework and in productive and beneficial relationships with us

- Provincial Government of British Columbia, including:
  - BC Ministry of Finance
  - BC Ministry of Forests
  - BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
  - BC Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
- Federal Government of Canada
- Western Forest Products (WFP)
- Any other large, medium and small businesses with operations in our community and wider region
- The community of MMFN

### 4. Those who will be responsible for paying for the delivery of this plan

- Province of British Columbia and associated Ministries
- The Federal Government of Canada
- Grant funding bodies such as ICET (Island Coastal Economic Trust)
- Strategic partners looking to making investments in our community
- Local business partners
- Community taxation (through property taxes of local businesses and residents)



**Our BIG Vision**

Our BIG Vision

**New housing**

**Forestry economy**

Hub for remote working

**Become a 'destination'**

**Tourism infrastructure**

**Paved Head Bay Road**

**Recreational economy**

**Strategic partnerships**



**Increased population**

**Employment opportunities**

**Investment**

**Infrastructure**

**Sustainable economy**



**Strategic Direction 2023-2033**

# Strategic Economic Priorities



Our three Strategic Economic Priorities reflect the needs of the community we serve and consider the audience described above.

The circle of priorities reflects that each of these pillars are key to the success of the whole. One pillar alone will not be sufficient to rejuvenate the village economy.

The Strategic Priorities are set out over the following pages, along with the associated goals and actions needed to deliver the priorities.

# Strategic Industries

## Forestry



- Community forest
- Regional partnerships

## Aquaculture



- Shellfish production tenure
- Tangential infrastructure

## Tourism



- Partner with MMFN
- Develop tourism assets

## Real Estate



- Filming location
- Tourist to resident

## IT



- Online IT Strategy
- Regional partnerships

The Official Community Plan identifies policy directions relating to specific strategic industries which are core to our broader long-term vision.

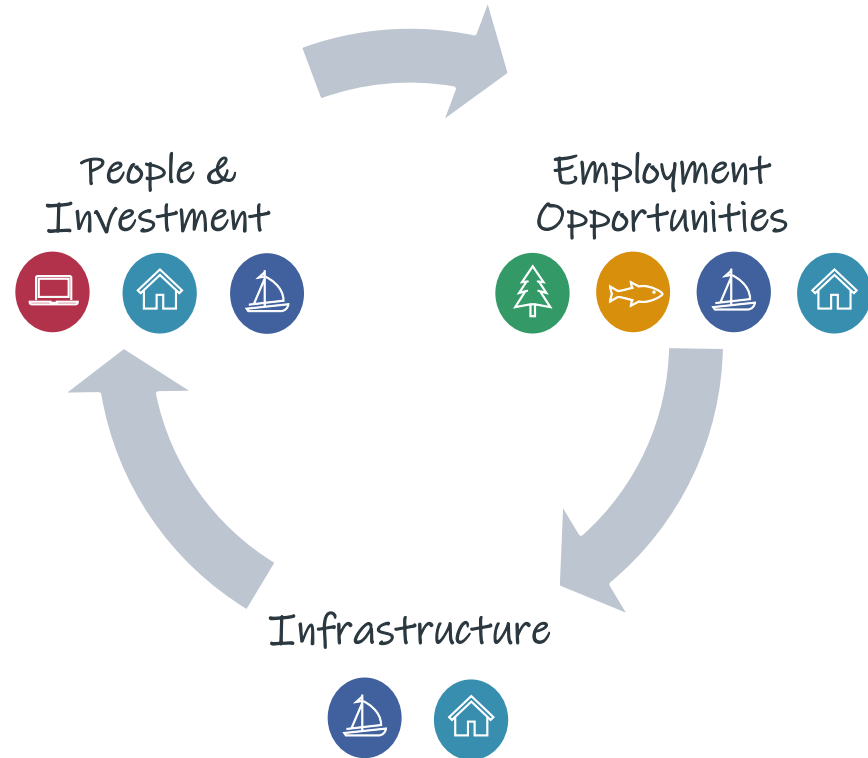
These industries are all important to the economic development plan as they represent the mechanisms through which the Strategic Economic Priorities will be delivered.

The color-coded icons are included next to the goals and actions set out over the following pages to show how these relate to the strategic industries listed here.

# Circle of Development

The three Strategic Priorities or 'pillars' of this plan link to the Strategic Industries as illustrated here.

It is important to recognize that the process of development is circular, with improvements in each pillar creating demand for the others.



## Strategic Priority #1: People & Investment

### People & Investment means:

Bringing in new people and investment to the village to provide critical mass in the community, both to support existing local businesses and provide a catalyst to organic future economic growth.

### Strategic Goals

The following strategic goals will help us deliver this strategic direction:

1. Create a business/co-working hub to support a sub-community of remote workers, both existing and future
2. Establish a municipal social enterprise entity through which to promote economic development and provide opportunity for strategic partnerships
3. Establish Tahsis as a prime tourism location on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, building on the world class fishing and access to unrivalled nature activities and recreation



## Strategic Priority #2: Employment Opportunities

### Employment Opportunities means:

Creating new opportunities for employment for existing residents and to encourage in new members to the community which is needed to support the existing economy and aging population.

### Strategic Goals

The following strategic goals will help us deliver this strategic direction:

1. Support investments in critical assets such as tourism infrastructure which will create both seasonal and year-round work
2. Active consideration of how existing assets can be used, with community support, to develop local businesses or increase community revenues
3. Implement Community Forest and Aquaculture strategies to create jobs in community and with local partners, MMFN and Gold River

## Strategic Priority #3: Infrastructure

### Infrastructure means:

Investing in critical infrastructure both within the community and to allow connectivity to the rest of Vancouver Island, which is considered fundamental to being able to achieve the other strategic priorities.

### Strategic Goals

The following strategic goals will help us deliver this strategic direction:

1. Paving of Head Bay Road, connecting Tahsis to the rest of Vancouver Island
2. Investment in key strategic assets that will make Tahsis a 'destination'
3. Investment in additional housing options that will make Tahsis attractive to new residents



Implementation Risks, Governance & Reporting

# Implementation Risks

Risk	What's the issue?	Mitigation
Capacity and capability to run the economic development program	If we don't dedicate enough time to actioning the plan, no change will happen	We may need to invest in additional resources, either internally or through external advice, to provide the required bandwidth
Limited financial resources	<p>With limited financial resources available, there is always a tradeoff in terms of how many projects we can support</p> <p>Economic development is important because it increases our ability to source new income to sustain our economy and meet future resource needs</p>	<p>We will source as many new funds through grant processes as possible as well as maximize our use of existing grant funds where there are mutual benefits (e.g. recreation center upgrades)</p> <p>Our plan includes thinking creatively about the strategic partnerships that will serve us and bring in external investment</p>
Lack of coordinated effort between regional strategic parties	Scattered approaches across neighboring communities is likely to be less effective than a coordinated effort in terms of pooling resource, energy and putting pressure on government	Working with our regional partners will be a core component of our governance strategy for actioning the plan, and collective meetings are already ongoing to identify areas of common interest

## Governance

We are committed to implementing this Strategic Economic Development Plan, which will be used and updated as a living document, and formally reviewed annually by the Council.

We will take the following steps to ensure this commitment can be met:

## Capacity

1. Action: Undertake to bring in specific economic development capacity to support implementation.
2. Action: Apply to applicable grant funding programs to source additional funds for capacity development.

## Strategic partnerships

1. Action: Working with Mowachaht /Muchalaht First Nation and Gold River (in the first instance) to form a regional economic development committee once the strategies of all three have been defined and articulated
2. Action: Identify partnership opportunities with Gold River and Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation for specific projects and apply for joint grant funding resources.

## Detailed planning

1. Action: Develop a detailed plan setting out the actions required to deliver the Strategic Goals set out in this document over the course of the next few months.
2. Action: Provide updates on the detailed action plan, including any updates for new actions, every six months.

## Reporting

Progress on the implementation of this plan will be reported to residents every six months at townhall meetings. In addition, each annual report will include a more formal and measured update on progress.



**Strategic Economic  
Development Plan**

VILLAGE OF  
TAHSIS

**REVISION  
January  
2026**



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## Introduction & Context



# Introduction

The Village of Tahsis (Tahsis) is a small community with a big vision.

Tahsis is located within the traditional territory of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation, and our region has been home to First Nations peoples for over 4,200 years. The word Tahsis means 'path', indicating our historic role as a trade route across the island.

At its peak, Tahsis was a bustling community of 2,500, built on a booming local forestry industry around two mills located in the Nootka Sound/Esperanza region. As of 2023, that population stands at 400, and the economic sustainability of the community faces pressures from an aging population, neglected infrastructure (particularly housing and core infrastructure) and opportunities for local employment.

We have many reasons to be optimistic about our future:

- Our population grew by 100 during the Covid-19 pandemic, one of the fastest rates in BC, as remote working became normal
- Our village is a destination of choice for many seeking a healthier lifestyle or to live out their retirement years
- Our extensive outdoor recreation assets continue to drive steady year-over-year growth in visitation.
- Planned infrastructure upgrades through the Connected Coast project are expected to support improved internet connectivity.
- Our ambitious program of adding and replacing key service infrastructure proactively means we have recently invested in upgrades to the drinking water system, sewage treatment, roads, flood protection, docks and wharves, and fire and emergency services, among others

The Strategic Economic Development Plan ("the Plan") was approved by Council in 2023. This 2026 document updates the Plan with new priorities and input garnered through extensive community consultation and engagement. The Plan has the potential to lead to a sustainable and progressive community for generations to come by transforming the economy.

It is a bold vision, but one that we are committed to delivering to ensure a bright future for the place we are fortunate to call our home.

*"Tahsis is a healthy, thriving community that showcases its spectacular natural environment, recreation opportunities and indigenous culture, where residents have pride in their community, access to safe, affordable housing, reliable health care, nutritious food and facilities and services that support all stages of life"*

*Tahsis Official Community Plan (2020), Vision Statement*



## Strategic Framework

### Context

Economic development for Tahsis involves several initiatives linked by a focused strategy for immediate implementation accompanied by medium- and longterm objectives and actions.

Our strategy is based on the following three strategic priorities:

1. Bringing in people and investment.
2. Creating employment opportunities.
3. Developing and replacing critical infrastructure.

Our plan cannot be developed in a silo. We are a small community and are reliant on the support of our wider stakeholders to help us achieve our vision. We are committed to embracing a creative and flexible mindset to help us achieve this plan and our goals.

### Purpose

The purpose of this Strategic Economic Development Plan is to set out a coherent strategy for developing the village that can be enacted over time by the Council and community.

The document is written both for our existing and future community, as well as other stakeholders with an interest in our economy, including the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation, whose traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory we gratefully call home. It sets out a vision for the future, the things that we value and that inform that vision, and a structured planning approach that derives a series of actions that we will undertake to achieve our vision.

## Strategic Framework At-A-Glance

**Mission** Why we exist. This is our purpose.

**Vision** -What we want to create for our future.

**Our Values** –How we will work towards our Mission & Vision    **Our Audience** - Who this plan is for

### Strategic Priorities

These are the top and high-level priorities that can help us realized our vision and deliver our mission.



### Activities and Actions

Activities and actions that directly support the achievement of the strategic priorities and goals, with measurable and achievable outcomes.

### Mission

We exist to serve the residents of Tahsis and preserve our beautiful way of life, ensuring that the needs of our community can continue to be met and evolve sustainably for future generations.

### Vision

Our vision is to create a vibrant, self-sustaining economy, which can continue to provide the very best lifestyle both to our current population and future residents.

### Guiding Values

Our Values will guide us in the application of our Mission and Vision:

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*Commitment:* We are committed to each other and collectively protecting the environment, economic development, and best interests of all the residents of Tahsis.

*Accountability:* We do what we say we are going to do and will be accountable for the results.

*Advocacy:* We will advocate hard on behalf of our community with respect to funding and services owed to us by the Provincial and Federal Governments.

*Communication:* We will transparently report progress to our community annually or more where necessary.

*Funding:* We will both fund and share opportunity in a fair and transparent way.

*Partnerships:* We will be creative in establishing strategic partnerships with our stakeholders to help us enact this plan in the interests of Tahsis residents.

*Our Audience: 4 groups interested in the success of this plan*

<b>1. Those primarily responsible for the success of this framework and driving the strategic priorities to achieve the vision</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Village of Tahsis Council</li> </ul>	
<b>2. Those who will benefit from the outcomes of this framework</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Village of Tahsis • The Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation (MMFN) and their leadership and all members, present and future</li> <li>All current and future members of our community • Current and future residents of the wider region</li> <li>Visitors to our village • All natural ecosystems in the region and everything that lives in members, present and future them</li> <li>The Village of Gold River, their leadership and all community • All business and employers in the region</li> </ul>	
<b>3. Those who need to interact with this framework and in productive and beneficial relationships with us</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provincial Government of British Columbia, including:</li> <li>BC Ministry of Finance</li> <li>BC Ministry of Forests</li> <li>BC Ministry of Transportation and Transit</li> <li>BC Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth •</li> <li>Surrounding municipalities and regional districts (Gold River, SRD, CVRD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal Government of Canada</li> <li>Western Forest Products (WFP)</li> <li>Businesses and stakeholders in our community</li> </ul>
<b>4. Those who will be responsible for paying for the delivery of this plan</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Province of British Columbia and associated Ministries</li> <li>The Federal Government of Canada</li> <li>Grant funding bodies such as ICET (Island Coastal Economic Trust)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic partners looking to making investments in our community</li> <li>Community taxation (through property taxes paid by local residents and other property owners)</li> <li>Local business owners</li> </ul>

Our BIG Vision



Our BIG Vision

Hub for remote working **Core infrastructure**

Become a 'destination'

**Tourism&Marketing** Outdoor Recreation

Head Bay Road

Strategic partnerships

Beautification



**Increased population**  
**Employment opportunities**  
**Investment**  
**Infrastructure**  
**Sustainable economy**



## Strategic Economic Priorities



Our three Strategic Economic Priorities, updated from the 2023 plan, reflect the needs of the community we serve and consider the audience described above.

The circle of priorities reflects that each of these pillars are key to the success of the whole. One pillar alone will not be sufficient to rejuvenate the local economy.

The updated Strategic Priorities are set out over the following pages, along with the associated goals and actions needed to deliver the priorities.

## Strategic Focus

### Outdoor Recreation



Natural amenity infrastructure  
Regional Partnerships

### Municipal Infrastructure



Aging Infrastructure  
Recreation Centre

### Marketing



Marketing  
Regional Partnerships

### Tourist to resident



Tourist to resident  
Build tax base

### Connectivity



Hub for remote workers  
Connectivity infrastructure

The Economic Development Plan adopted in 2023 reflected community priorities at the time, with a focus on forestry, aquaculture, tourism, real estate, and information technology as primary drivers of local growth. These sectors were identified based on market conditions, regional strengths, and anticipated investment and employment opportunities. Over the past five years, changing economic conditions, demographics, and community expectations have prompted a review to ensure the Plan remains relevant and effective.

In 2025, community engagement revealed a shift toward greater emphasis on quality of life and foundational community assets as key drivers of long-term economic resilience. Residents highlighted the importance of outdoor recreation, municipal infrastructure, housing availability, and community connection in supporting sustainable growth. As a result, the updated Plan adopts a more place-based approach, recognizing connectivity and recreation as catalysts for attracting residents and businesses, and positioning housing and municipal assets as essential to long-term prosperity and community wellbeing.

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## Strategic Priority #1: People & Investment

People & Investment means:

Bringing in new people and investment to the village to provide critical mass in the community, both to support existing local businesses and provide a catalyst to organic future economic growth.

### Strategic Goals

The following strategic goals will help us deliver this strategic direction:

1. Leverage high-speed internet infrastructure to position and market the community to remote workers
2. Attract and retain new residents, entrepreneurs, and investors by promoting Tahsis as a livable, connected, and opportunity-rich community that supports business growth, infrastructure investment and a safe and healthy community.
3. Strengthen Tahsis's profile as a prime tourism destination on the West Coast of Vancouver Island by strengthening strategic partnerships, outdoor recreation opportunities, and memorable visitor experiences



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## Strategic Priority #2: Employment Opportunities

Employment Opportunities means:

Creating new opportunities for employment for existing residents and to attract new residents which are needed to support the existing economy and aging population.

### Strategic Goals

The following strategic goals will help us deliver this strategic direction:

1. Support investments in critical assets such as tourism infrastructure which will create seasonal and year-round work
2. Active consideration of partnership opportunities to expand upon training and grant opportunities.
3. Increase sustainable employment opportunities for residents by strengthening workforce capacity, attracting new workers, and supporting businesses that drive long-term economic stability.

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## Strategic Priority #3: Infrastructure

### Infrastructure means:

Investing in critical infrastructure, within the community and enhancing connectivity with the rest of Vancouver Island, is fundamental to achieving other strategic priorities.

### Strategic Goals

The following strategic goals will help us deliver this strategic direction:

1. Improvements to Head Bay Road maintenance and further chip sealing, connecting Tahsis to the rest of Vancouver Island
2. Investment in key strategic assets that will make Tahsis a 'destination'
3. Investment in key municipal infrastructure to improve quality of life for both residents and visitors.



## Implementation Risks

### Risk

Capacity and capability to run the economic development program.

### What's the issue?

If we don't dedicate enough time to actioning the plan, no change will happen

### Mitigation

We may need to invest in additional resources, either internally or through external advice, to provide the required bandwidth

Limited financial resources

With limited financial resources available, there is always a tradeoff in terms of how many projects we can support

We will source as many new funds through grant processes as possible as well as maximize our use of existing grant funds where there are mutual benefits (e.g. recreation center upgrades)

Lack of coordinated effort between regional strategic parties

Economic development is important because it increases our ability to source new income to sustain our economy and meet future resource needs  
Scattered approaches across neighboring communities is likely to be less effective than a coordinated effort in terms of pooling resources, energy and putting pressure on senior governments.

Our plan includes thinking creatively about the strategic partnerships that will serve us and bring in external investment. Working with our regional partners will be a core component of our governance strategy for actioning the plan, and collective meetings are already ongoing to identify areas of common interest

The program is ineffectual

Economic development is influenced by a multitude of factors, most of which are beyond the influence of local governments, e.g., interest rates, provincial and federal and regulations.

By focusing on the fundamental areas of importance to private investors - core infrastructure and community health and safety - local investment climate is improved.

## Governance

We are committed to implementing this Strategic Economic Development Plan, which will be used and updated as a living document, and formally reviewed annually by Council.

We will take the following steps to ensure this commitment can be met:

## Capacity

1. Action: Where feasible, increase economic development capacity through the budget process or available grant funding to implement the plan.
2. Action: Prioritize and phase implementation actions based on available capacity, focusing on high-impact and achievable initiatives in the short term.

## Strategic partnerships

1. Action: Continue work with Mowachaht /Muchalaht First Nation and Gold River on aligned economic development priorities through the Nootka Economic Development Forum.
2. Action: Collaborate with local non-profit organizations to enhance shared capacity, with a focus on economic development and skills training initiatives.

## Detailed planning

1. Action: Develop a detailed plan setting out the actions required to deliver the Strategic Goals set out in this document over the course of the next few months.
2. Action: Provide updates on the detailed action plan, including any updates for new actions, every six months.

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## Reporting

Progress on the implementation of this plan will be reported to residents annually. In addition, an annual report will be submitted to Council, including actions to date and progress made on plan development and implementation.



## **Village of Tahsis – Action Plan for the 2023 Strategic Economic Development Plan**

This action plan is for use as an internal document to track delivery of the agreed actions that assist in the delivery of the Strategic Economic Development Plan.

It is important to note that since the plan was published in 2023 the following initiatives have been progressed:

- The newly agreed Canadian Coast Guard Marine Facility will bring employment opportunities, especially during construction phase;
- The finalized plans for the new Community Dock will also bring similar employment opportunities; and
- The new facility and business at the boat launch will also add to the increased tourism and other opportunities.

In addition, Council has agreed to encourage large development opportunities (such as the re-development of the former Maquinna Hotel, development of the former WFP mill site or IR 11 at the entrance to the Village) as they would be the most efficient way to galvanize the plan as all have significant growth opportunities attached.

The Action Plan is set out in detail below:

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
<b>Strategic Priority #1: People and Investment</b>					
<b>Goal #1:</b> Create a business/co-working hub to support a sub-community of remote workers, both existing and future.	1.1.1	Scope and design a co-working space within the Tourist Information Centre.	Paige Sawyer	04/30/24	Scoping document agreed by Council.
	1.1.2	Convene a group of interested business owners and other interested stakeholders to scope the co-working space technology, furniture and equipment needs. Use the existing REDIP grant and other grant funding to integrate the co-working space proposal into the Tourist Information Centre renovation project.	Paige Sawyer	03/29/24	Revised co-working space proposal included in Tourist Information Centre renovation project.
<b>Goal #2:</b> Establish municipal-based structures through which to promote economic development and provide opportunity for strategic partnerships.	1.2.1	Interact with the Tahsis Chamber of Commerce if requested to do so as part of ongoing meetings, etc.	Paige Sawyer	06/28/24	TBD once the existing Tahsis Chamber of Commerce is operational.
	1.2.2	Under the provisions of the Council Procedure Bylaw, Council to establish a Standing Committee for Business to interact with Mayor and Council and to develop a dialogue to enable the delivery and future development of the Strategic Economic Development Plan, along with the development and delivery of education and training opportunities to help local business owners to succeed.	Council	04/30/24	Standing Committee for Business established.

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
<b>Strategic Priority #1: People and Investment (continued)</b>					
<b>Goal #2: (continued)</b> Establish municipal-based structures through which to promote economic development and provide opportunity for strategic partnerships.	1.2.3	Set terms of reference for the Standing Committee for Business including reporting, meeting schedule and objectives.	Council	04/30/24	Standing Committee for Business established.
	1.2.4	Consult with the Standing Committee for Business on long term planning and development initiatives including updates to the Official Community Plan and zoning bylaw amendments.	Council	Ongoing	Minutes of Standing Committee for Business and resulting actions.
	1.2.5	Use the Standing Committee for Business to represent the local business community in the North Island Digital Development Initiative and any other connectivity opportunities arising from Connected Coast.	Council/ Standing Committee for Business Members	Ongoing	Representation on North Island Digital Development Initiative confirmed.
<b>Goal #3:</b> Establish Tahsis as a prime tourism location on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, building on the world class fishing and access to unrivalled nature activities and recreation.	1.3.1	Interact with 4VI (Tourism Association of Vancouver Island), Destination Campbell River and other North Island tourism initiatives, as well as the Destination Marketing efforts of Mowachaht Muchalaht First Nation and develop co-strategies where possible.	Paige Sawyer	03/31/24 and ongoing	To be determined (TBD).
	1.3.2	Seek funding opportunities to develop a more formal Destination Marketing Plan.	Paige Sawyer	Ongoing	Destination Marketing Plan commissioned (and funding received).

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
<b>Strategic Priority #2: Employment Opportunities</b>					
<b>Goal #1:</b> Support investments in critical assets such as tourism infrastructure which will create both seasonal and year-round work.	2.1.1	Apply funding from the Rural Dividend Fund grant, REDIP program and other funding sources to create a new full time position for a local Economic Development Officer (at least two years' funding needed).	Mark Tatchell	05/30/24	Full-time Economic Development Officer position agreed and posted.
	2.1.2	Recruit to the new full-time position.	Mark Tatchell	07/31/24	Full-time Economic Development Officer position appointed.
<b>Goal #2:</b> Active consideration of how existing assets can be used, with community support, to develop local businesses or increase community revenues.	2.2.1	Use the existing infrastructure and networks (e.g. Tahsis Business Connect) to create a local Business Directory and provide structured opportunities for businesses to collaborate and cost share (e.g. Freight Sharing, etc.).	Paige Sawyer	03/31/24	Local Business Directory created.
	2.2.2	Use the new full-time Economic Development Officer position to hold regular clinics with business owners and provide the opportunity for dialogue and informing the agenda and scope of the Standing Council Committee for Business.	Paige Sawyer	Ongoing	Schedule for regular clinics created.

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
<b>Strategic Priority #2: Employment Opportunities (continued)</b>					
<b>Goal #3:</b> Implement Community Forest and Aquaculture strategies to create jobs in community and with local partners, Mowachaht Muchalaht First Nation.	2.3.1	Develop a Community Forest feasibility plan in partnership with Mowachaht Muchalaht First Nation.	Mark Tatchell	03/31/25	Community Forest Feasibility Plan developed and signed off by Council.
	2.3.2	Work with local aquaculture businesses and First Nations to assess whether a local Aquaculture Strategy should be developed and implemented.	Mark Tatchell	03/31/25	Aquaculture Strategy developed and signed off by Council.
<b>Strategic Priority #3: Infrastructure</b>					
<b>Goal #1:</b> Paving of Head Bay Road, connecting Tahsis to the rest of Vancouver Island.	3.1.1	Create a working group to advance discussions on a long-term solution for funding for paving and long-term maintenance of Head Bay Road (to potentially include Village of Tahsis, Province of BC, Western Forest Products, Government of Canada and Mowachaht Muchalaht First Nation involvement).	Mark Tatchell/ Council	Ongoing	Working Group convened and operational.
	3.1.2	Regularly update residents on progress of the working group.	Mark Tatchell	Ongoing	Regular updates completed (no less than every 6 months).
	3.1.3	Build a coalition of road users (potentially to include Government of Canada, RCMP, BC Ambulance Service, Residents, etc.) to lobby the Province of BC to improve both capital investment in and ongoing maintenance of the Head Bay Road.	Council	Ongoing	TBD.

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
<b>Strategic Priority #3: Infrastructure (continued)</b>					
<b>Goal #2:</b> Investment in key strategic assets that will make Tahsis a 'destination'.	3.2.1	Establish a Harbour Authority to be responsible for the new community dock and to set, collect and manage usage and moorage fees, etc., with an additional full- or part-time position to be considered to assist with collection and enforcement.	Mark Tatchell/ Council	Ongoing	Harbour Authority established and operational.
	3.2.2	Subdivide the parcel of land where the Tahsis Marine Centre and Post Office are located and sell at least part of the sub-divided asset.	Mark Tatchell	09/30/24	Plot sub-divided and sold.
	3.2.3	Develop a Building Permit and Development Permit seminar/workshop and regular online clinics for business owners to educate and inform on what is required for Building and Development Permits (site specific) and how to expedite them with Mayor and Council and, potentially, with the Province of BC.	Paige Sawyer/ Strathcona Regional District (SRD) Building Inspector/ SRD Planning Officer	05/30/24 and ongoing	First seminar/workshop held with ongoing program established.
<b>Goal #3:</b> Investment in additional housing options that will make Tahsis attractive to new residents.	3.3.1	Communicate to local residents information about the Property Maintenance Regulation Bylaw including the complaint and enforcement process.	Mark Tatchell/ SRD ByLaw Officer	09/30/24	Meeting held and literature developed.

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
<b>Strategic Priority #3: Infrastructure (continued)</b>					
<b>Goal #3: (continued)</b> Investment in additional housing options that will make Tahsis attractive to new residents.	3.3.2	Set service standards for the Property Maintenance Regulation By-Law with the SRD to ensure prompt action on complaints.	Mark Tatchell/ SRD ByLaw Officer	09/30/24	Update to ByLaw agreed and published.
	3.3.3	Work towards establishing a plan for the waterfront/mill site with Western Forest Products and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.	Mark Tatchell/ Council	Ongoing	Plan developed and stakeholder group convened for discussion on long-term resolution.

**Note: In total 24 actions identified.**

### **Village of Tahsis – Action Plan for the 2026 Revised Strategic Economic Development Plan**

This action plan is for use as an internal document to track delivery of the agreed actions that assist in the delivery of the Strategic Economic Development Plan. It is important to note that since the plan was published in 2023 the following economic development activity has transpired:

- The former Maquinna Hotel and Marina was purchased resulting in new opportunities to create local employment and enhance community vibrancy, including extensive new marine infrastructure.
- The Community Dock and Boat Launch project began, further strengthening local marine and recreational infrastructure.
- The Information Centre and Museum renovation was completed resulting in an improved and more engaging visitor experience.
- New trail infrastructure projects, led by Tahsis and the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation, were initiated which will further support economic growth through tourism. Further development initiatives are currently in the planning stages by the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation, specifically related to IR11 and IR9.

The Village of Tahsis supports these initiatives and the associated economic activity, which will benefit residents, visitors, business owners, and community stakeholders.

The Action Plan is set out in detail below:

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
<b>Strategic Priority #1: People and Investment</b>					
<p><b>Goal #1:</b> Leverage high-speed internet enabled through connectivity infrastructure to position and market the community as a viable location for remote workers.</p>	1.1.1	Scope and design a co-working space within the Recreation Centre.	Economic Development	06/01/26	Co-working space identified, budgeted and approved.
<p><b>Goal #2:</b> Attract and retain new residents, entrepreneurs, and investors by promoting Tahsis as a livable, connected, and opportunity-rich community that supports business growth, infrastructure investment and a safe and healthy community.</p>	1.2.1	Use social media and the Village of Tahsis website to market the region as a “work-from-home” friendly community.	Economic Development	06/01/26	Campaign launched. Information available and visible on Village of Tahsis website.

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
<b>Strategic Priority #1: People and Investment (continued)</b>					
<b>Goal #3:</b> Strengthen Tahsis's profile as a prime tourism destination on the West Coast of Vancouver Island by strengthening strategic partnerships, outdoor recreation opportunities, and unique visitor experiences.	1.3.1	Continue marketing Tahsis through social media to key demographics likely to visit the region	Economic Development	Ongoing	Consistent use of social media to promote Tahsis to priority visitor audiences.
	1.3.2	Build partnerships with neighbouring communities, regional districts, First Nations, and Destination Marketing Organizations to expand regional marketing.	Economic Development	Ongoing	Development of working relationships with regional and destination marketing partners, including Explore Nootka, to support coordinated promotion.

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
	1.3.3	Develop a trail network improvement plan to guide volunteer efforts, grant applications, and future funding through the budget or Economic Development Reserve Fund.	Economic Development CAO Council	12/31/26	Preparation of a draft trail network improvement plan for internal planning and funding purposes.

<b>Strategic Priority #2: Employment Opportunities</b>			
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<b>Goal #1:</b> Support investments in critical assets such as tourism infrastructure which will create both seasonal and year-round work.	2.1.1	Identify and prioritize tourism infrastructure projects with strong job-creation potential and actively pursue external funding to support their development.	Economic Development CAO NEDF Business Stakeholders	08/01/26	Identification and documentation of priority tourism infrastructure projects with job-creation potential.
	2.1.2	Partner with First Nations, regional organizations, and tourism operators to develop tourism infrastructure and support local jobs.	Economic Development CAO NEDF Business Stakeholders	Ongoing	Formal partnership agreements in place and documented progress on at least one joint tourism infrastructure project

<b>Goal #2:</b> Active consideration of partnership opportunities to expand upon training and grant opportunities.	2.2.1	Partner with local non-profits and training organizations to deliver workforce and skills development programs.	Economic Development Non-profits	06/30/26	Partnerships established, workforce and skills development opportunities identified.
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Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
	2.2.2	Pursue joint grant applications with regional and community partners to expand access to training and employment funding.	Economic Development Non Profits Regional District Work BC NIEDF	01/31/27	Completion of formal partnerships and submission of a minimum of one collaborative grant application per year to support training and employment initiatives.
<b>Goal #3:</b> Increase sustainable employment opportunities for residents by strengthening workforce capacity, attracting new workers, and supporting businesses that drive long-term economic stability.	2.3.1	Create a workforce hub on the Village website to promote employment	EDO Staff	05/01/26	Employment posting section added to VoT Website - managed by business community.
	2.3.2	Implement a business retention and expansion program to support local employers and job creation.	EDO CAO Business Community	01/31/27	Annual engagement with the majority of local employers and reporting on identified business and workforce needs.

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
<b>Strategic Priority #3: Infrastructure</b>  <b>Goal #1:</b> Improvements to Head Bay Forest Service Road maintenance and further chip sealing, connecting Tahsis to the rest of Vancouver Island	3.1.1	Continue to work with provincial agencies, regional communities, First Nations and regional stakeholders to advocate for sustained funding and coordinated effective and efficient maintenance of the Head Bay Forest Service Road.	Council Mayor CAO	10/31/26	At least two coordinated advocacy meetings annually.
	3.1.2	Build a coalition of road users (potentially to include, RCMP, BC Ambulance Service, Residents, etc.) to lobby the Province of BC to improve both capital investment in and ongoing maintenance of the Head Bay FSR.	Mayor Council CAO	05/01/26	Establishment of a Head Bay FSR advocacy group to augment Council's ongoing lobbying efforts.

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
<b>Strategic Priority #3: Infrastructure (continued)</b>					

<p><b>Goal #2:</b> Investment in key strategic assets that will make Tahsis a 'destination'.</p>	3.2.1	Identify and prioritize key community and tourism assets for enhancement and pursue external funding to support their improvement and long term sustainability.	CAO Economic Development	04/01/27	Development of shovel ready project plans for a minimum of three priority assets, including cost estimates and funding strategies.
	3.2.2	Leverage municipal and community assets to support tourism growth and broader economic development opportunities.	CAO Economic Development	10/01/26	Measurable increase in visitor usage or revenue generated from municipal and community assets within three years.
<p><b>Goal #3:</b> Investment in key municipal infrastructure to improve quality of life for both residents and visitors</p>	3.3.1	Identify and prioritize municipal infrastructure upgrades that improve accessibility, safety, and user experience for residents and visitors, and pursue external funding to support their implementation.	CAO Public Works Council	06/01/27	Adoption of an infrastructure upgrade priority list and annual reporting on progress toward implementation as part of the 5 year capital planning process and aligned with the Village's

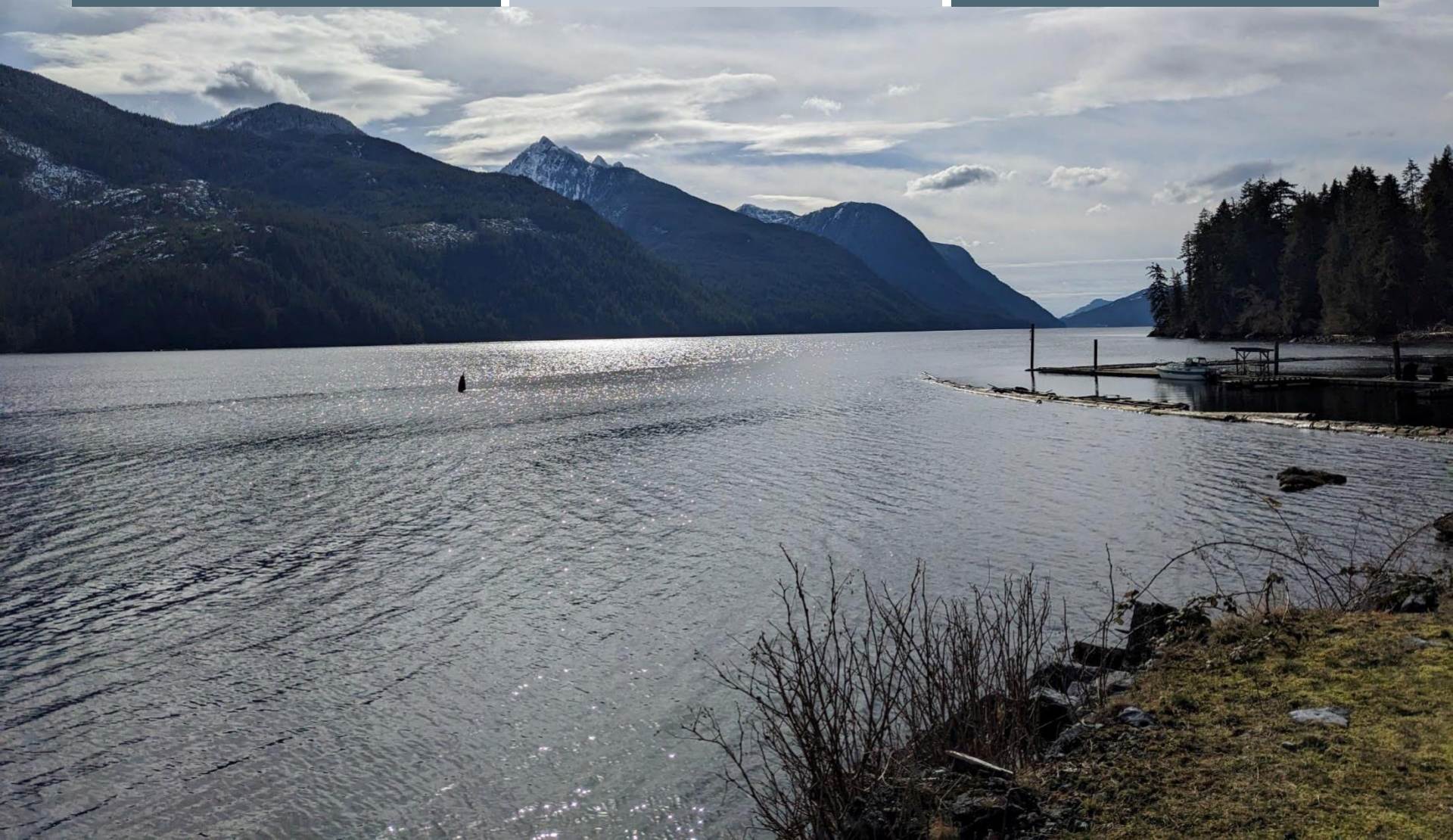
					Asset Management Plan.
<b>Strategic Priority/Goal</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>By When</b>	<b>Measurement</b>
<b>Strategic Priority #3: Infrastructure (continued)</b>					
<b>Goal #3: (continued)</b> Investment in key municipal infrastructure to improve quality of life for both residents and visitors	3.3.2	Develop and maintain a multi-year capital renewal plan for priority community facilities and public spaces to guide investment, maintenance, and long-term sustainability	CAO  Council	06/01/27	Adoption of a Council approved multi-year capital renewal plan and annual updates reflecting completed and planned infrastructure investments.

**Note: In total 17 actions identified.**

**Strategic Economic  
Development Plan**

**VILLAGE OF  
TAHSIS**

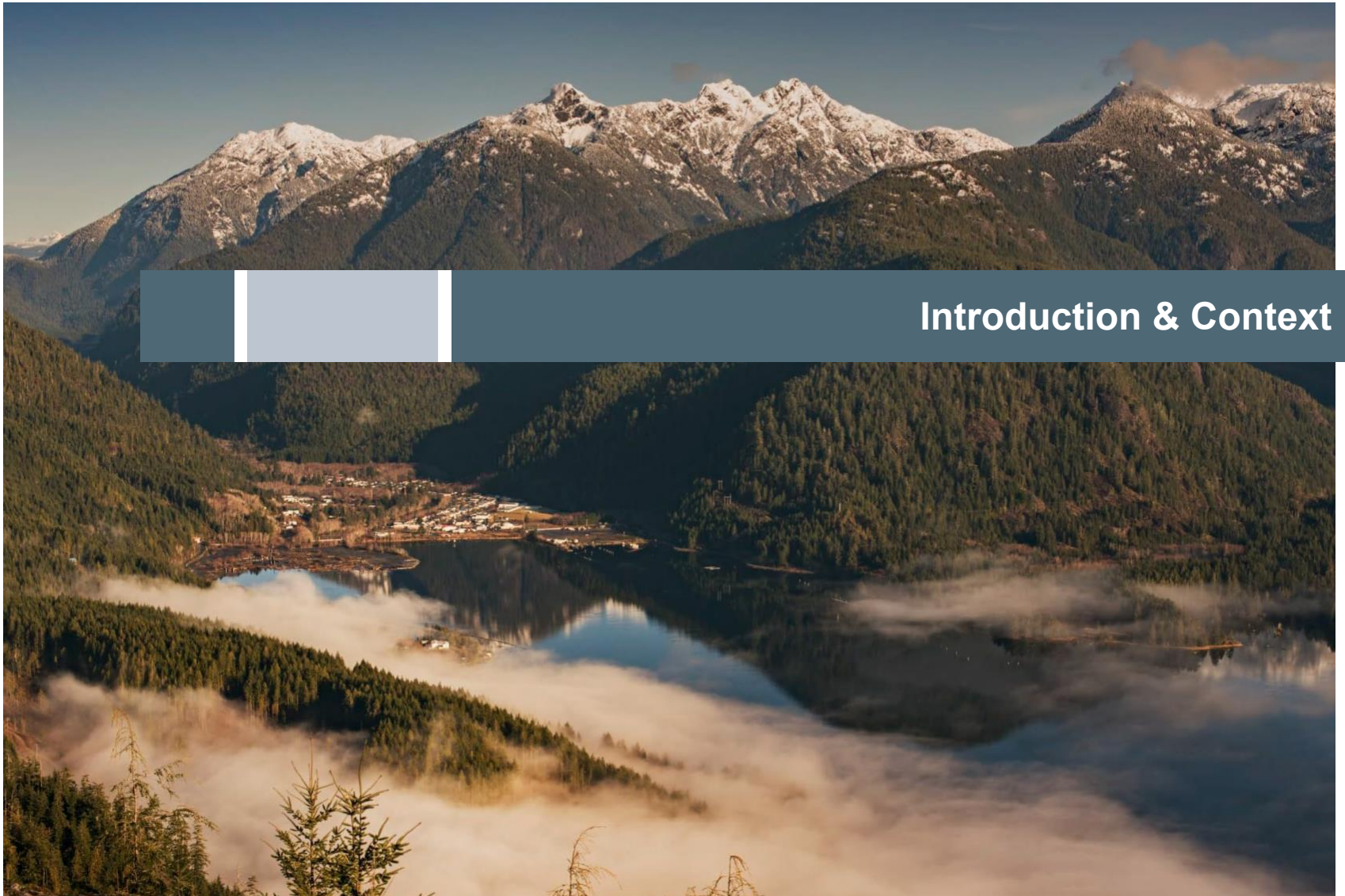
**Final  
August 2023**



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## Introduction

The Village of Tahsis (Tahsis) is a small community with a big vision.

Tahsis is located within the traditional territory of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation, and our region has been home to First Nations peoples for over 4,200 years. The word Tahsis means 'doorway', indicating our historic role as a trade route across the island.

At its peak, Tahsis was a bustling community of 2,500, built on a booming local forestry industry around two mills located in the Nootka Sound/Esperanza region. In 2023, that population stands at 400, and the economic sustainability of the community faces pressures from an aging population and neglected infrastructure (particularly housing and core infrastructure).

We have many reasons to be optimistic about our future:

- Our population grew by 100 during the Covid-19 pandemic, one of the fastest rates in BC, as remote working became normal
- Our village is a destination of choice for many seeking a healthier lifestyle or to live out their retirement years
- Our fishing is world class and with our breathtaking natural environment draws a reliable stream of visitors all year
- Our internet will be the same high speed as downtown Vancouver by 2026 through the Connected Coast project
- Our ambitious program of adding and replacing key service infrastructure proactively means we have recently invested in upgrades to water supply, sewage works, flood protection, docks and wharves, and emergency services, among others

This document sets out a 10-year Strategic Economic Development Plan that has the potential to both provide a sustainable and progressive long-term community for future generations and transform our economy.

It is a bold vision, but one that we are committed to delivering to ensure a bright future for the place we are fortunate to call our home.

*"Tahsis is a healthy, thriving community that showcases its spectacular natural environment, recreation opportunities, and indigenous culture, where residents have pride in their community, access to safe, affordable housing, reliable health care, nutritious food, and facilities and services that support all stages of life."*

*Tahsis Vision Statement: Official Community Plan 2019*



# Strategic Framework

## Context

Economic development for Tahsis involves several initiatives linked by a focused strategy for immediate implementation accompanied by medium- and long-term objectives and actions.

Our strategy is based on the following three strategic priorities:

1. Bringing in people and investment.
2. Creating employment opportunities.
3. Developing critical infrastructure.

Our plan cannot be developed in a silo. We are a small community and are reliant on the support of our wider stakeholders to help us achieve our vision. We are committed to embracing a creative and flexible mindset to help us achieve this plan and our goals.

## Purpose

The purpose of this Strategic Economic Development Plan is to set out a coherent strategy for developing the village that can be enacted over time by the Council and community.

The document is written both for our existing and future community, as well as other stakeholders with an interest in our economy, including the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation, whose traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory we gratefully call home.

It sets out a vision for the future, the things that we value and that inform that vision, and a structured planning approach that derives a series of actions that we will undertake to achieve our vision.

# Strategic Framework At-A-Glance

## Mission

Why we exist. This is our purpose.

## Vision

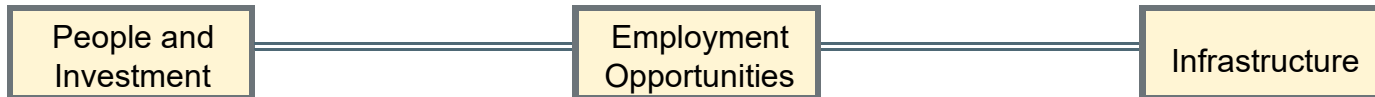
What we want to create for our future.

*Our Values* – How we will work towards our Mission & Vision

*Our Audience* - Who this plan is for

### Strategic priorities

These are the top and high-level priorities that can help us realize our vision and deliver our mission.



### Strategic goals

These are the goals that will support the strategic priorities and set the framework for delivery of specific activities and actions.

### Activities and actions

Activities and actions that directly support the achievement of the strategic priorities and goals, with measurable and achievable outcomes.

## Mission

We exist to serve the residents of Tahsis and preserve our beautiful way of life, ensuring that the needs of our community can continue to be met and evolve sustainably for future generations.

## Vision

Our vision is to create a vibrant, self-sustaining economy, which can continue to provide the very best lifestyle both to our current population and future residents.

## Guiding Values

Our Values will guide us in the application of our Mission and Vision:

*Commitment:* We are committed to each other and collectively protecting the culture, economic development, and best interests of all the residents of Tahsis.

*Accountability:* We do what we say we are going to do and will be accountable for the results.

*Advocacy:* We will advocate hard on behalf of our community with respect to funding and services owed to us by the Provincial and Federal Governments.

*Communication:* We will transparently report progress to our community twice a year or more where necessary.

*Funding:* We will both fund and share opportunity in a fair and transparent way.

*Partnerships:* We will be creative in establishing strategic partnerships with our stakeholders to help us enact this plan in the interests of Tahsis residents.

*Our Audience: 4 groups interested in the success of this plan*

<b>1. Those primarily responsible for the success of this framework and driving the strategic priorities to achieve the vision</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Village of Tahsis Council</li> </ul>	
<b>2. Those who will benefit from the outcomes of this framework</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The village of Tahsis</li> <li>All current and future members of our community</li> <li>Visitors to our village</li> <li>The communities of Gold River and Zeballos, their leadership and all community members, present and future</li> <li>All business and employers in the region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The communities of Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation (MMFN) and Ehattesaht/Chinehkint First Nation, their leadership and all members, present and future</li> <li>Current and future residents of the wider region</li> <li>All natural ecosystems in the region and everything that lives in them</li> </ul>
<b>3. Those who need to interact with this framework and in productive and beneficial relationships with us</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provincial Government of British Columbia, including:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BC Ministry of Finance</li> <li>BC Ministry of Forests</li> <li>BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure</li> <li>BC Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal Government of Canada</li> <li>Western Forest Products (WFP)</li> <li>Any other large, medium and small businesses with operations in our community and wider region</li> <li>The community of MMFN</li> </ul>
<b>4. Those who will be responsible for paying for the delivery of this plan</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Province of British Columbia and associated Ministries</li> <li>The Federal Government of Canada</li> <li>Grant funding bodies such as ICET (Island Coastal Economic Trust)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic partners looking to making investments in our community</li> <li>Local business partners</li> <li>Community taxation (through property taxes of local businesses and residents)</li> </ul>



Our **BIG** Vision

New housing

Forestry economy

Hub for remote working

Become a 'destination'

Tourism infrastructure

Paved Head Bay Road

Recreational economy



Strategic partnerships

**Increased population**  
**Employment opportunities**  
**Investment**  
**Infrastructure**  
**Sustainable economy**

## THE COMMUNITY VITALITY WHEEL

### 1. VISIT

If you built a place where people want to visit, then you have built a place where people want to live.

### 2. LIVE

And if you built a place where people want to live, then you have built a place where people want to work.

### 3. WORK

And if you built a place where people want to work, then you have built a place where business and residents will invest.

### 4. INVEST

And if you built a place where business and residents will invest, then you have built a place where people will want to visit.





**Strategic Direction 2023-2033**

# Strategic Economic Priorities



Our three Strategic Economic Priorities reflect the needs of the community we serve and consider the audience described above.

The circle of priorities reflects that each of these pillars are key to the success of the whole. One pillar alone will not be sufficient to rejuvenate the village economy.

The Strategic Priorities are set out over the following pages, along with the associated goals and actions needed to deliver the priorities.

## Strategic Industries

### Forestry

- Community forest
- Partner with MMFN



### Aquaculture

- Shellfish production tenure
- Partner with MMFN



### Tourism

- Key infrastructure
- Marketing plan
- Partner with MMFN



### Real Estate

- Visitor to resident
- New housing



### IT

- Build a digital identity



The Official Community Plan identifies policy directions relating to specific strategic industries which are core to our broader long-term vision.

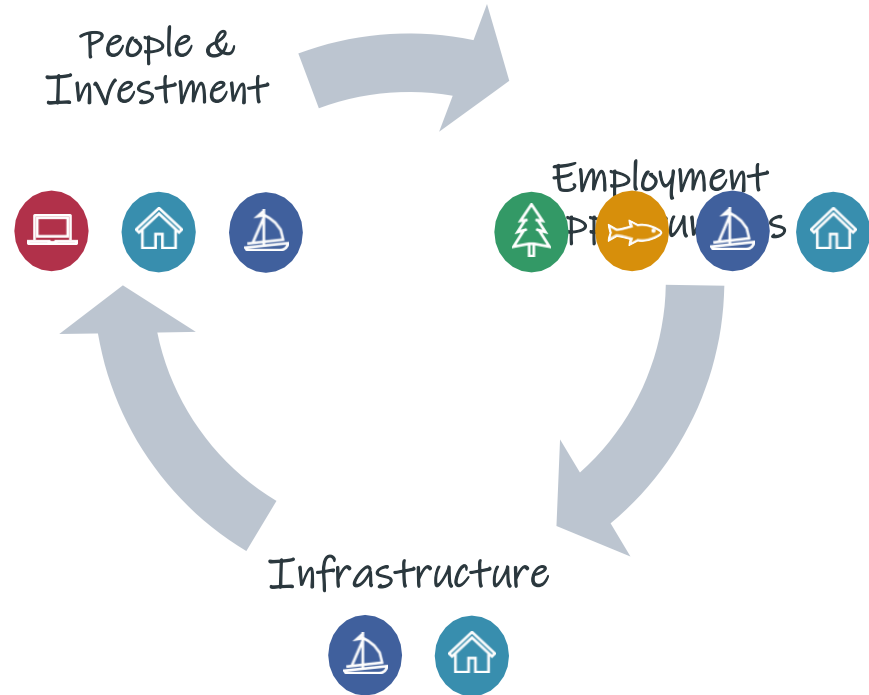
These industries are all important to the economic development plan as they represent the mechanisms through which the Strategic Economic Priorities will be delivered.

The color-coded icons are included next to the goals and actions set out over the following pages to show how these relate to the strategic industries listed here.

# Circle of Development

The three Strategic Priorities or 'pillars' of this plan link to the Strategic Industries as illustrated here.

It is important to recognize that the process of development is circular, with improvements in each pillar creating demand for the others.



## Strategic Priority #1: People & Investment

### People & Investment means:

Attracting new people and investment to the village to provide critical mass in the community, both to support existing local businesses and provide a catalyst to organic future economic growth.

### Strategic Goals

The following strategic goals will help us deliver this strategic direction:

1. Build on our reputation for front row access to world class fishing and outdoor recreation by developing trails, camping options, and outdoor gathering spaces that benefit both residents and visitors.
2. Market Tahsis to the world through strategic partnerships.
3. Prioritize maintenance and beautification of the village and building assets in order to make the village physically attractive.
4. Develop community cohesion and make Tahsis more socially attractive through community programming and events.
5. Create a business/co-working hub to support a sub-community of remote workers. both existing and future
6. Establish a municipal social enterprise entity through which to promote economic development and provide opportunity for strategic partnerships

## Strategic Priority #2: Employment Opportunities

### Employment Opportunities means:

Create attractive employment opportunities for existing residents and encourage people to move to Tahsis to support the existing economy and aging population.

### Strategic Goals

The following strategic goals will help us deliver this strategic direction:

1. Create attractive Village of Tahsis employment opportunities for residents and people interested in relocating to Tahsis.
2. Support the recruitment and retention of professionals to meet village service delivery needs (ie- teachers, nurses, paramedics, public works and VOT administration)
3. Implement the Aquaculture strategy to create jobs in community and with local partners, MMFN and Gold River.
4. Continue discussions with MMFN to see if there is interest in Community Forest partnerships in the Tahsis area.

## Strategic Priority #3: Infrastructure

### Infrastructure means:

Investing in critical infrastructure both within the community and to allow connectivity to the rest of Vancouver Island, which is considered fundamental to being able to achieve the other strategic priorities.

### Strategic Goals

The following strategic goals will help us deliver this strategic direction:

1. Continue to advocate for an increased number of kilometres of seal coat and for continuous maintenance and improvements to Head Bay Road, connecting Tahsis to the rest of Vancouver Island
2. Invest in maintenance and renewal of key assets (ie Library, Recreation Centre, Municipal Office) that make Tahsis attractive as a visitor and resident.
3. Explore opportunities to provide additional housing options that will help support current and future community housing needs.
4. Explore and support the need for renewal and renovation of existing housing stock.
5. Explore and support the need for transportation services for goods and people including locals and visitors.





**Implementation Risks, Governance & Reporting**

## Implementation Risks

Risk	What's the issue?	Mitigation
Capacity and capability to run the economic development program	If we don't dedicate enough time to actioning the plan, no change will happen	We may need to invest in additional resources, either internally or through external advice, to provide the required bandwidth
Limited financial resources	<p>If we don't dedicate enough funds to actioning the plan, no change will happen.</p> <p>Economic development is important because it increases our ability to source new income to sustain our economy and meet future resource needs</p>	<p>We will source as many new funds through grant processes as possible as well as maximize our use of existing grant funds where there are mutual benefits (e.g. recreation centre upgrades)</p> <p>Our plan includes thinking creatively about the strategic partnerships that will serve us and bring in external investment</p>
Lack of coordinated effort between regional strategic parties	Scattered approaches across neighbouring communities are likely to be less effective than a coordinated effort in terms of pooling resource, energy and putting pressure on government	Working with our regional partners will be a core component of our governance strategy for actioning the plan, and collective meetings are already ongoing to identify areas of common interest

## Governance

We are committed to implementing this Strategic Economic Development Plan, which will be used and updated as a living document, and formally reviewed annually by the Council.

We will take the following steps to ensure this commitment can be met:

## Capacity

1. Action: Undertake to bring in specific economic development capacity to support implementation.
2. Action: Apply to applicable grant funding programs to source additional funds for capacity development.

## Strategic partnerships

1. Action: Work with Mowachaht /Muchalaht First Nation and Gold River to form a regional economic development committee once the strategies of all three have been defined and articulated
2. Action: Identify partnership opportunities with Gold River and Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation for specific projects and apply for joint grant funding resources.

## Detailed planning

1. Action: The Economic Development program lead and the Business Liason Committee will provide updates on the detailed action plan, including any updates for new actions, every six months. All updates will be reviewed for approval by council on an annual basis.

six months.

## Reporting

Progress on the implementation of this plan will be reported to residents every six months and residents will have an opportunity every 18 months to provide input and feedback at community open houses. In addition, each annual report will include a more formal and measured update on progress.



**Village of Tahsis – Action Plan for the 2023 Strategic Economic Development Plan – DRAFT Update Spring 2025**

This action plan is for use as an internal document to track delivery of the agreed actions that assist in the delivery of the Strategic Economic Development Plan.

The proposed actions also meet several priorities identified through various processes over the past several years. The documents referenced for this update include:

- 2019 Village of Tahsis - Community Survey
- Age Friendly Community Action Plan
- Village of Tahsis - Official Community Plan
- Village of Tahsis - Housing Needs Assessment

The Action Plan is set out in detail below:

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
<b>Strategic Priority #1: People and Investment</b>					
<p><b>Goal</b> Build on our reputation for front row access to world class fishing and outdoor recreation by developing tourism infrastructure including: trails, camping options, and outdoor gathering spaces that benefit both residents and visitors.</p>		<p>Develop a more formal Tourism Development Plan.</p> <p>Create a development &amp; maintenance plan for existing local trails.</p> <p>Make the Leiner Trail a destination: improve to an accessible standard with plant, animal and historical interpretive signs, and other appropriate infrastructure.</p> <p>Apply for an Active Transportation Planning Grant in partnership with MMFN to create a village network for wayfinding and safe travel (walking, biking) to all parts of the village including connecting to IR11 and the newly funded Grease Trail project.</p>			
		<p>Create a development plan for the Waterfront Park including sheltered gathering space, washrooms, parking, and garbage disposal. Alternately consider other waterfront VOT properties for development.</p> <p>Create a development plan for washrooms, parking and signage at the boat launch.</p> <p>Create a development plan for Pete’s Farm (with the potential to include</p>			

	<p>tent camping sites).</p> <p>Add poles at the waterfront to support seasonal flags and light displays</p> <p>Make it easier for visitors to navigate the village by improving road signs and adding wayfinding signs.</p> <p>Move benches and shelters to more useful and scenic locations. Ensure they are installed with accessibility in mind.</p> <p>Purchase accessible picnic benches and locate them throughout the village in appropriate locations.</p> <p>Continue the 'red chair' project by adding two chairs every year.</p>			
<p><b>Goal</b> Prioritize maintenance and beautification of the village and building assets in order to make the village physically attractive.</p>	<p>Make an annual calendar to prioritize seasonal efforts to keep the village looking its best.</p> <p>Buy concrete flower planter blocks to beautify the flood wall.</p>			

	<p>Invest in targeted annual budgets specific to beautification, for hanging baskets on all municipal buildings, new planters and other similar beautification efforts.</p> <p>Create small municipal Neighborhood Beautification grants that are awarded annually.</p> <p>Work with Western to build a new fence along the sidewalk/ mill site interface.</p> <p>Apply for the provincial invasive species grant to tackle the growing broom issue in the village.</p> <p>Look at capital costs to ensure we have the tools we need for maintenance (ie: street cleaner)</p>			
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Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
<b>Strategic Priority #1: People and Investment (continued)</b>					
<p><b>Goal</b> Market Tahsis to the world through strategic partnerships</p>		Consider the creation of a regional Destination Marketing Organization.			
		Interact with 4VI (Tourism Association of Vancouver Island), Destination Campbell River and other North Island tourism initiatives, as well as the Destination Marketing efforts of the Mowachaht- Muchalaht First Nation and develop co-strategies where possible.			
		<p>Create branding and a village theme to create cohesive colour and form across the built environment and digital presence.</p> <p>Build a new VOT website with strong branding, visuals and easy navigation.</p> <p>Develop a more formal Tourism Marketing Plan.</p>			
<p><b>Goal</b> Develop community cohesion and make Tahsis more socially attractive through community programming and events.</p>		<p>Improve VOT consultation with residents and visitors to help guide a community centred approach to future planning.</p> <p>Launch a survey specific to Recreation Centre programming and hours to inform local services.</p> <p>Create an annual Tahsis events</p>			

		<p>calendar and strategy.</p> <p>Launch a regular newsletter through the VOT website to keep both residents and visitors looped in to everything going on in our community.</p> <p>Actively work to improve accessibility in the village including the built environment and service delivery (ie: library, trails, recreation centre, parking, programming and events) to support full participation and an inclusive community.</p> <p>Apply for grants to renew all municipal playgrounds- including in the Townsite, Recreation Centre &amp; Trailer Park</p> <p>Create a dog park to support social connection for community members and their four legged friends.</p>			
<p><b>Goal</b> Create a business/co-working hub to support a sub-community of remote workers. both existing and future</p>		<p>Create a small business/ coworking hub in the Tahsis Recreation Centre to support the needs of budding entrepreneurs and remote workers who may need a different space to work or resources such as a printer or fax.</p>			

<p><b>Goal</b>          Establish a municipal social enterprise entity through which to promote economic development and provide opportunity for strategic partnerships</p>		<p><b>**Has this been explored?</b>   <b>Ask Paige about work to date**</b></p>			
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Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
<b>Strategic Priority #2: Employment Opportunities</b>					
<p><b>Goal</b> Create attractive entry level Village of Tahsis employment opportunities for residents and people interested in relocating to Tahsis.</p>		<p>Consider the opportunity for the VOT to join the living wage movement and if successful, encourage local businesses to do the same. **look at metrics</p>			
		<p>Look for opportunities to increase Village of Tahsis employment opportunities while also supporting economic development, by extending the hours of operation of the Tahsis Recreation Centre and the Museum and Tourist Information Centre</p>			

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
<b>Strategic Priority #2: Employment Opportunities (continued)</b>					
<p><b>Goal</b>  <i>Work with local and First Nations partners to establish new value added industries in Tahsis and area</i></p>		Implement the Aquaculture strategy to create jobs in community			.
		Approach MMFN to see if there is interest in Community Forest partnerships in the Tahsis area.  Create an Agriculture Strategy towards the goal of local food security and a sustainable, diverse industry.			

<b>Strategic Priority #3: Infrastructure</b>					
<p><b>Goal1:</b> Continue to advocate for an increased number of kilometres of seal coat and for continuous maintenance and improvements to Head Bay Road, connecting Tahsis to the rest of VancouverIsland</p>		Continue Head Bay Road working group discussions and report to residents every six months or less			
		<p>Build a coalition of road users (potentially to include Coast Guard, RCMP, BC Ambulance Service, SD 72, residents etc) to lobby the Province of BC to improve both capital investment in and ongoing maintenance of the Head Bay Road.</p> <p>Consider ways to better communicate current road conditions to residents and visitors (ie: on the Village of Tahsis website or by providing a link to the road conditions FB page or by setting up a webcam at the Bull Lake Summit)</p>			
		Use the tagline “Road to Adventure” as a way to provide a spin on the experience of getting to Tahsis			

Strategic Priority/Goal	#	Action	Responsible Officer	By When	Measurement
<b>Strategic Priority #3: Infrastructure</b>					
<p><b>Goal</b> Invest in maintenance and renewal of key assets (ie Recreation Centre, Municipal Office) that make Tahsis attractive as a visitor and resident.</p>		<p>Make a phased plan to renovate the Recreation Centre including the exterior façade, accessibility, and any other updates required.</p>			
		<p>Identify and act on priorities in the Asset Management Plan that also benefit Economic Development.</p>			
<p><b>Goal</b> Explore opportunities to provide additional housing options that will support current and future community housing needs.</p>		<p>Identify suitable VOT lands for a multi-unit, accessible and affordable housing development.</p> <p>Identify non-profit partners for a housing project and approach BC Housing to explore the opportunity</p>			

<p><b>Goal</b> Explore and support the need for renewal and renovation of existing housing stock.</p>		Build an information resource that will help residents find renovation and retrofitting grants and trusted contractors that are willing to travel to Tahsis.			
		Continue to explore opportunities for both public and private transportation partnerships with the Strathcona Regional District and the Mowachaht-Muchalaht First Nation.			

**VILLAGE OF TAHSIS**  
**A BYLAW TO CONDUCT ELECTIONS AND ASSENT VOTING**  
**BYLAW NO. 681, 2026**

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A bylaw to provide for the determination of various procedures for the conduct of elections and assent voting.

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**WHEREAS** under the Local Government Act Council may, by bylaw, determine various procedures and requirements to be applied to the conduct of elections and assent voting;

**AND WHEREAS** Council wishes to establish voting procedures and requirements under that authority;

**NOW THEREFORE**, THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF TAHSIS in open meeting assembled, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

**1. CITATION**

This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as "Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 681, 2026"

**2. MINIMUM NUMBER OF NOMINATORS**

- (a) As authorized under section 86 of the *Local Government Act*, The minimum number of qualified nominators required to make a nomination for office as a member of council shall be 10.

**3. ELECTOR REGISTRATION**

- (a) As authorized under section 76 of the *Local Government Act*, The most current available Provincial list of voters prepared under the *Election Act* shall form the register of resident electors and shall become the register of electors on the 52<sup>nd</sup> day prior to general voting day.

**4. ADVANCE VOTING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Required Advance Voting**

- (a) As required under section 107 of the *Local Government Act*, there will be an advance voting opportunity on the 10th day before the general voting day.
- (b) As permitted under section 107 (2) of the *Local Government Act*, as an exception to section 107 (1) a second advanced voting opportunity will not be held.

**5. RESOLUTION OF TIE VOTE AFTER JUDICIAL RECOUNT**

- (a) In the event of a tie vote after a judicial recount, the tie vote will be resolved by conducting a lot in accordance with section 151 of the *Local Government Act*.

**6. ADMINISTRATION**

- (a) This bylaw hereby repeals:
  - i) "Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 622, 2019"
  - ii) "Bylaw No. 648, 2022"
- (b) This bylaw comes into effect upon its adoption.

READ for the first time this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026  
 READ for the second time this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026  
 READ for the third time this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026  
 Reconsidered, Finally Passed and Adopted this 21<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026

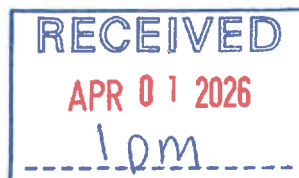
ADOPTED BY COUNCIL, SIGNED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND SEALED WITH THE SEAL OF THE VILLAGE OF TAHSIS.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original Bylaw No. 681 duly passed by the Council of the Village of Tahsis on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corporate Officer



April 2026

To Mayor & Council Tahsis:

I understand there have been meetings and discussions regarding tourism over the past year, however, I have yet to see any viable progress in this regard. The Village still seems to rely almost exclusively on fishing, and has very little for tourists to do aside from that.

Last year, we did not even have an Info Centre. Although I understand you wanted to hire local tradesmen for the renovations, I believe it would have been more expedient to hire outside professionals to do the job. That way, the Info Centre would have been up and running last summer, and I am sure many tourists were disappointed that it was closed.

Now that the Maquinna should be reopening this year, there will be adequate accommodation for considerably more tourists, but they still need a reason to come here. I do not fish, however, speaking to many locals who do, salmon fishing has not been great over the last few years for smaller boats that only fish the inlet. Larger boats that fish the ocean might as well stay in Gold River as it is easier to access, and therefore not a selling feature when it comes to visiting Tahsis. Three years ago, the rivers were so dry that most salmon could not even make it to their spawning grounds, so salmon fishing in the inlet will probably get worse, and is not therefore a viable option to attract more tourism. I also understand from posts on Facebook that there are not enough fishing charters to meet demand, so strictly relying on fishing as a tourism draw is not viable, especially since the dock might not even be available for the entire season.

Regarding the Tahsis Farm land, which was purchased from the Ministry of Forests, and is now privately owned. A similar situation occurred near Kimberley regarding access to Mary Ann Falls. Part of the purchase agreement included a proviso that hikers would still be able to cross the land to access the falls. Apparently, the Village of Tahsis did not ensure these measures were adopted when the Tahsis Farm land was purchased, so now it is up to the Village to negotiate with the current owners to allow hikers to access the trails through private land to arrive at points of interest including Coral Caves, West Bay Lookout, and Ceepeecee Lake Trail.

#### Tahsis Farm – Coral Cave

The north road is not gated, so access is allowed. Until 5 or 6 years ago, the Coral Caves were still accessible by 4x4. People who drove it point out that the Coral Caves were not adequately marked, and therefore difficult to find. The road is so dilapidated and overgrown now that it can only be reached by hikers. I have spoken to hikers, however, that could not find the caves because they are not sufficiently marked. No doubt the Village could get permission from MoF to mark the caves more clearly. There should also be a sign indicating that hikers should travel on the north road to find the caves. I realize a hiking trail was made off the fire lane behind the trailer park, but it is not marked, requires a day long hike due to the steep terrain, and apparently upset the local residents, so this is probably not an option. If steps are not taken to make the Coral Caves easier to find, then the current signage should be taken down, and the Coral Caves should be removed from the Tahsis Trail Map (Schedule 1) and the Tahsis Hiking Guide (Schedule 2) so as not to disappoint tourists, who often hike a great distance to find them.

#### Tahsis Farm – Bull of the Woods Trail

The Tahsis Walking Guide (Schedule 3) calls this “a beautiful trail” and notes “Fun tree identification”. Although hikers are allowed to access this trail, it has fallen into disrepair. The Village should negotiate

with the farm owners to allow the Village to maintain this trail. Not only is it seriously overgrown, but the bridges are falling apart. I personally fell through one of these bridges, due to bridge collapse, when walking the trail last summer. As if that is not bad enough, all of the signs identifying trees are located on dead trees. Either something must be done to maintain this trail, or there should be a sign indicating hikers use it at their own risk. I should also point out that the outhouses, which have probably not been maintained for at least a decade, are located at the Tahsis Farm roundabout instead of the beginning of the Bull of the Woods trail.

#### Tahsis Farm – West Bay Viewpoint & Ceepeecee Lake Trail

I have never been beyond the gate to the Tahsis Farm, but I believe the majority of activity is at the south end. There is, however a road going west (Schedule 4) long before the south end of the property is reached. The west road connects to a logging road that would allow access to both West Bay Viewpoint & Ceepeecee Lake Trail. I have no idea what condition the logging road is in, but it would likely still be suitable for hiking. The Village should see if they can negotiate with the owners to have the gate moved to allow access to this west road, or at least allow hikers to pass the gate to get to the west road. It is regrettable that no one other than the Tahsis Farm owners can access the Crown Land to the west of the farm, and it would be nice to open it up to both tourists and villagers. If this cannot be done, then the signage should be removed, and Road C (Schedule 1) should be removed from the map.

#### Leiner Bouldering Trail & Maquinna Trail

Both of these trails are poorly marked and difficult to find. A large sign at the beginning of each trail, showing the route and points of interest would encourage tourists to use them.

#### Woss Lake Grease Trail

I understand this trail is still under construction. It therefore should either be removed from The Tahsis Trail Map (Schedule 1) and Tahsis Hiking Guide (Schedule 2), or noted as “Under Construction”.

#### Leiner River Estuary Trail

Although this is a very nice, easy walking trail, it could be made more interesting. A large sign at the beginning of the trail, showing the route (including Pete’s Farm), points of interest, and information regarding the local flora would be beneficial. For instance, there are numerous edible plants along the way, and pictures and descriptions, possibly including indigenous use would be interesting. Lichens, trees, flowers, etc. could also be listed.

#### Caves

According to what I read at the Info Centre, there are over 40 caves in the Tahsis area. There is, however, no locally accessible information regarding them. Information regarding location, access, and difficulty would no doubt encourage spelunking tourism.

#### Info Centre

The Info Centre should have handouts of updated and correct Schedules 1 – 3. An enlarged version of Schedule 5 should also be available. It should also have information regarding the plethora of caves in the area.

I realize many permanent residents do not want to share information with tourists, and consider their privacy more important than the Tahsis economy. I think it is important, however, to remember that Tahsis is suffering from a deteriorating infrastructure, and a dying economy. Home taxes will therefore invariably increase to cover Village costs. Although I personally do not enjoy tourism, I know it is a

necessary part of our economy, and I believe steps should be taken by the Mayor and Council to encourage it. I hope you will consider at least some of my suggestions. I am writing in response to Ryan's comment on my recent Tahsis Now post on Facebook.

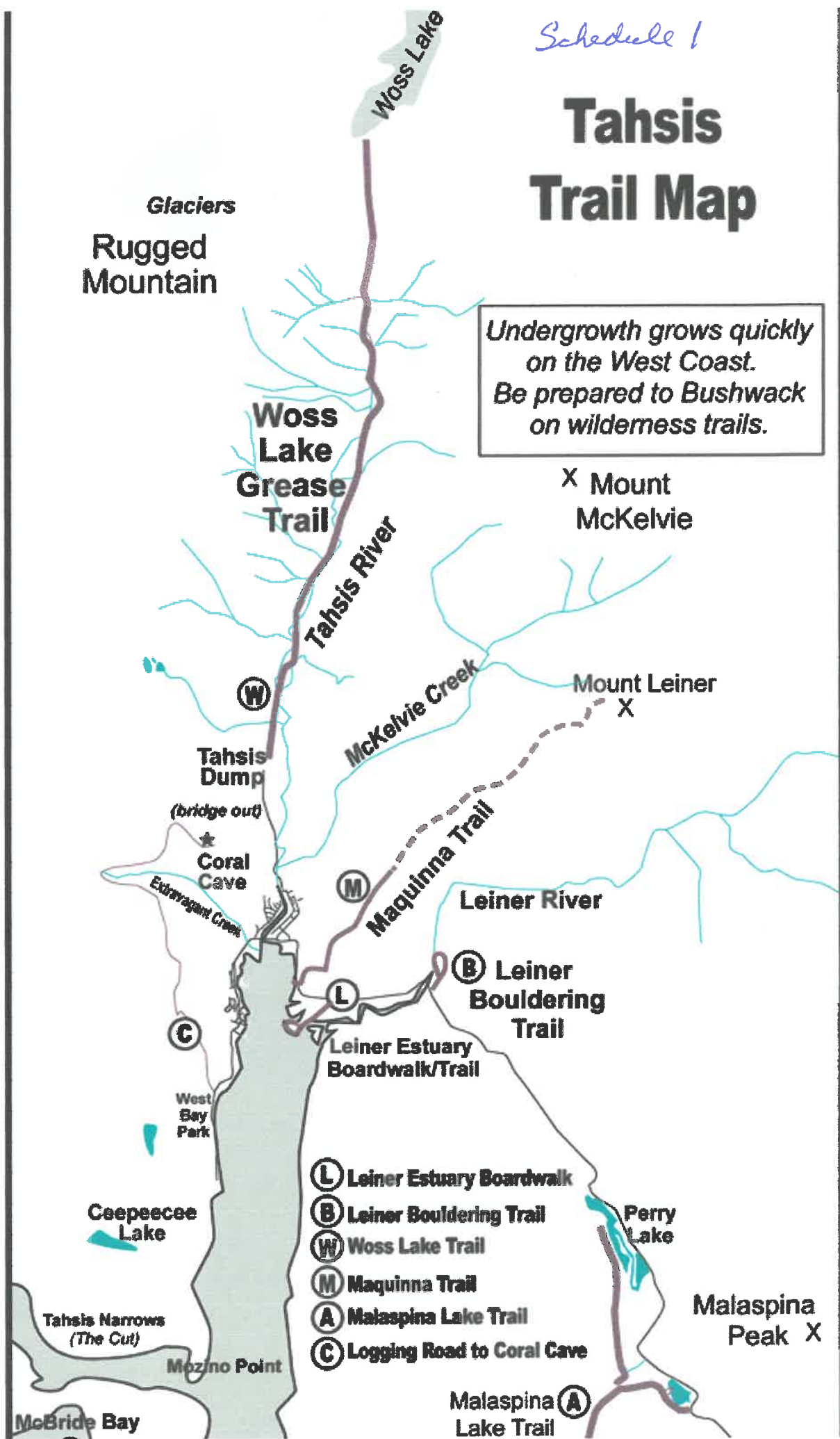
Yours truly,  
Lynn Gordon

Contact Information: [REDACTED] Facebook – Lynne Gordon

# Tahsis Trail Map

Glaciers  
Rugged Mountain

*Undergrowth grows quickly on the West Coast.  
Be prepared to Bushwalk on wilderness trails.*



Woss Lake Grease Trail

Tahsis River

McKelvie Creek

Mount Leiner X

Tahsis Dump  
(bridge out)  
★ Coral Cave  
Extravagant Creek

Maquinna Trail

Leiner River

B Leiner Boulderling Trail

L Leiner Estuary Boardwalk/Trail

West Bay Park

Ceepeecee Lake

Perry Lake

L Leiner Estuary Boardwalk

B Leiner Boulderling Trail

W Woss Lake Trail

M Maquinna Trail

A Malaspina Lake Trail

C Logging Road to Coral Cave

Malaspina Peak X

Tahsis Narrows (The Cut)

Mozino Point

McBride Bay

Malaspina A Lake Trail



## TAHSIS HIKING GUIDE

Tahsis is located on the west edge of Vancouver Island – a rugged landscape of lush rainforest and steep fjord-like mountains, swept by the fresh strong winds of the wild Pacific Ocean. This pristine coastal geography is the setting for some of the best recreation opportunities on Vancouver Island.

Hikers are discovering our uncrowded trails and dramatic vistas, including the internationally famous Nootka Trail. This guide covers hiking trails close to Tahsis such as the Leiner Bouldering Trail, the Lookout and Coral Cave, the historic Maquinna Trail

and Woss Lake Grease Trail, and the Nootka Trail along the western edge of Nootka Island. Please note: all activities and routes described in this guide are followed at your own risk.

For Tahsis' shorter trails and walking areas within the municipal boundaries, please see the Tahsis Walking Guide and the Tahsis Historical Walking Tour.

For more information on kayaking, caving, climbing, surfing, windsurfing, kite boarding, diving, snorkeling and wildlife viewing, view our Tahsis Adventure Guide available at [www.tahsis.ca/guides](http://www.tahsis.ca/guides).

### ◆HIKING TRAILS NEAR TAHSIS◆

#### **Leiner Bouldering Trail**

This short loop trail wanders along a scenic stretch of the Leiner River where rock climbers can practice their skills on the numerous house-sized boulders that litter the slopes of the narrow valley. At one point the trail passes through a short 'cave' between boulders. The Leiner's deep azure pools are alive in the fall with salmon returning to spawn.

Access to the trail is 30 metres east of the Leiner Bridge off the road to Tahsis, 3 km from town, on the upstream right bank. There is ample parking across the road. The loop walk is about 30 minutes long but is strenuous with some rocks to climb over.

#### **Coral Cave and the Lookout**

A great place to start a more extended hike is from West Bay Park, just past Maquinna Resort at the end of town. There are shorter trails accessed from the



*View from Lookout to Nootka*

turnaround at West Bay, or you can backtrack and go up the logging road (only during weekends when there is no active logging taking place) and head for the Coral Cave or The Lookout. Either

destination is about 3 to 4 hours to reach for an experienced hiker, and both spots offer breathtaking views of the Tahsis Inlet. For more detailed directions check out Caving and the directions to Coral Cave.

#### **Maquinna Trail**

This rugged route was immortalized in the book "White Slaves of the Nootka" as the ridge that ancestral Chief Maquinna sojourned on. It follows

the ridge that rises between the Leiner and Tahsis River valleys directly east of the village.

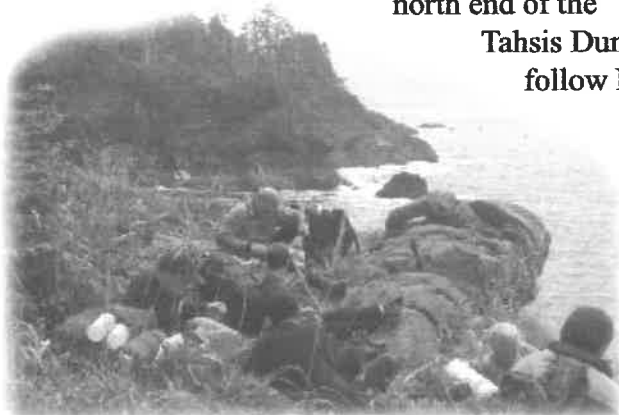
Bushwacking will be necessary as this is a seldom used trail. While the first part of the hike is moderately steep, one is rewarded by increasingly spectacular views of Tahsis Inlet and the surrounding peaks. The lower section is forested with Douglas Fir with some Dogwood, rare on the west coast. Above 450 metres the ascent is more gradual and the route is mostly a semi-open sub alpine environment. Water is rare and should be carried. For the most intrepid mountaineers, an 8 km (5 mile) hike along the gently undulating ridge brings you to two small lakes below Mount Leiner which are 1,456 metres (5,000 feet) high.

To find the trailhead, leave Tahsis (toward Gold River) but stop where the road leaves the inlet and heads inland, within sight of town. The trail entrance is flagged and heads up hill from here. It is considered a route as it is flagged only up to 800 metres elevation (2,600') but can be followed further in clear weather by staying on the obvious ridge line.

### **Woss Lake Grease Trail**

This ancient trade route was used by First Nations and crosses Vancouver Island from its southern terminus in Tahsis. The route followed the Tahsis River to its headwaters and over a pass to Woss Lake, where the natives paddled the lake and then down the Nimpkish River to the ocean on the northeast side of Vancouver Island. Although not maintained as a marked route, this trail begins at the north end of the

Tahsis Dump,  
follow N.



*Nootka Trail - Maquinna Point*



*Nootka Beach*

Maquinna Street to the north end of town and over the bridges. The route follows the flat valley bottom, often following the Tahsis River or its dry (in summer) watercourse. Occasionally it follows old remnants of a logging road left from when the valley was logged in the 1940s.

Much of this road has been obliterated by river erosion since then. Spectacular views of Rugged Mountain (1,875 metres, 6,151 feet) greet the visitor as they pass the base. Mountaineers may want to use this route as an access to the aptly named Rugged and its glacier, the largest on Vancouver Island. The glacier is a steep hike of 1,000 metres (3,200 feet) elevation west of the highest point on the trail; there is no marked route up, refer to a topographical map. The Woss Lake trail ascends steeply only at the headwaters and reaches a high point of 550 metres (1,800 feet) before descending to Woss Lake at 140 metres (500 feet). There are no roads from this end of the lake (still within Rugged Mountain Provincial Park) but the other end of the lake is road-accessible from Woss. Arrange for boat pickup from the Lake end of the Trail.



The total trail length from Tahsis Dump to Woss Lake is about 12 km (7.5 miles). *Nootka Trail - Beano Cliff*  
Water is available along much of the route and there are some nice wilderness camping spots in the upper reaches of the Tahsis River. There are opportunities for trout fishing in the river pools here. The trail is moderate in difficulty.

### **Nootka Trail**

Hugging the west coast of Nootka Island, the Nootka Trail provides an unsurpassed wilderness hiking experience featuring long beaches, secluded bays and spectacular headlands jutting into the Pacific Ocean. The trail is not in a park and is maintained by volunteer efforts but is a relatively easy hike which never rises more than 50 metres above sea level. It is not uncommon to see whales including Greys,

Humpbacks and Orcas close to shore; bears, cougar, elk and wolves are some of the larger forest creatures although rarely seen. Old native sites are found along these shores, often marked only by old shell middens or whale bones – please do not disturb. The forests are mostly old growth stands of spruce, hemlock and cedar.

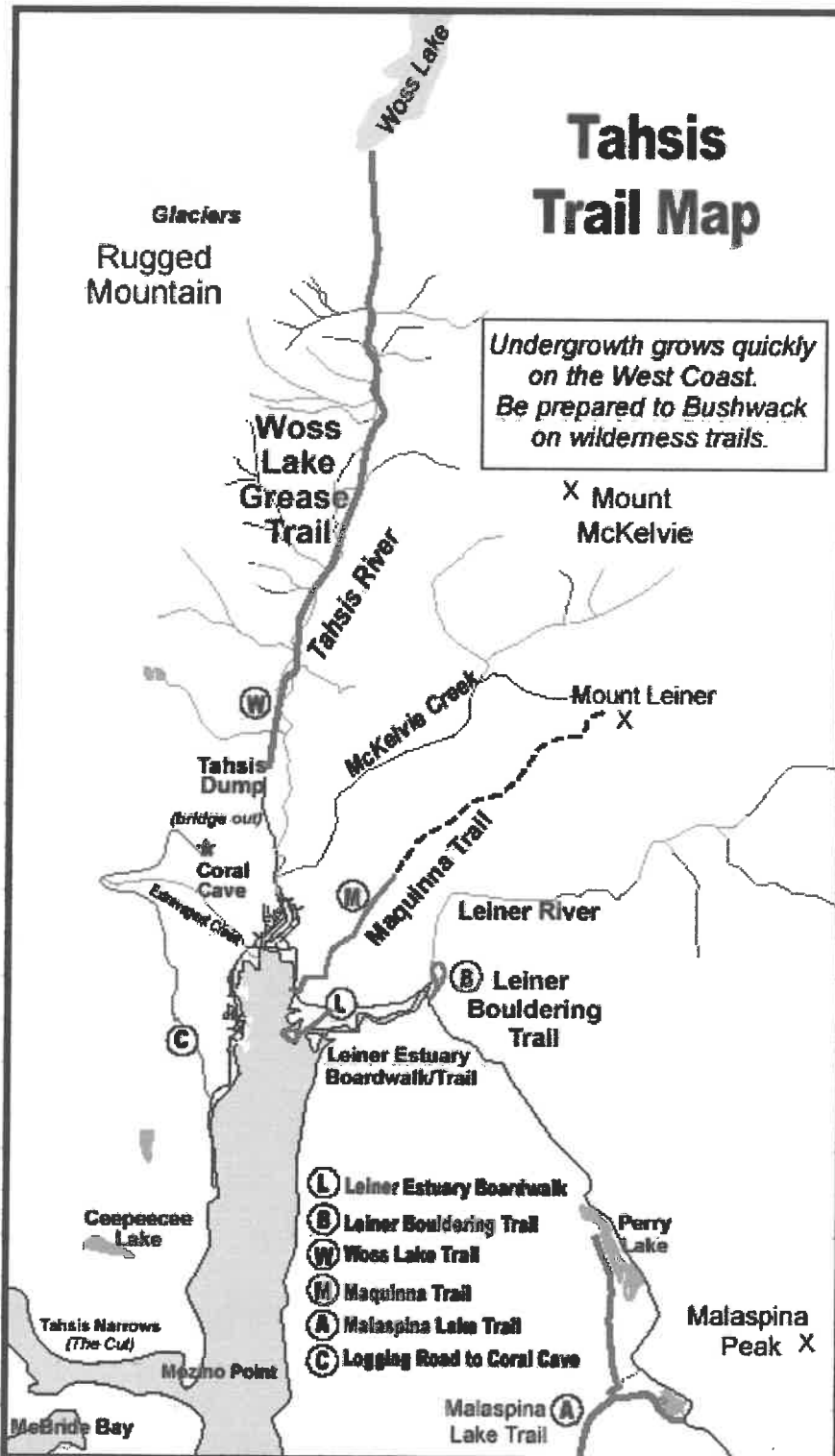
Hikers can take a water taxi to either trail head (Louie Bay or Friendly Cove) from Tahsis or can

arrive by float plane from Gold River. Purchasing a tide guide before your trip is mandatory as you can use low tides to follow beach flats which are otherwise inundated, making hiking much more difficult. Most people take five days or longer to complete the walk. Recommended footwear are hiking boots and a sturdy pair of sandals with wetsuit booties for wading in the cooler weather. Some creek crossings also require low tide to cross and a sturdy pole can be useful for balance if the

water is high. At places where the route leaves beaches, hanging fishing floats mark the trail egress. Bring your own potable water, as drinkable sources can be infrequent.

The northern end of the trail is accessed by walking the south side of Louie Bay at low tide. Be prepared to wade through a channel to the west coast. The south end is from the dock at Friendly Cove or Yuquot. Yuquot is the site of an old native village and the church is worth a visit for a bit of the local history. There is generally a charge to cross the reservation at this end of the trail but camping is included with the fee. The north end of the trail features low headlands and sandy coves, while beaches dominate the central portion. A popular camping spot and swimming hole is Calvin Falls, a 12 metre high cascade dropping directly onto the beach. The southern third is dominated by a series of spectacular headlands formed of volcanics mixed with marble, often with large sea caves and beaches tucked into tiny coves.

There are no facilities along the trail although there are some private cabins at Beano Creek (do not disturb) and close to Friendly Cove – the latter are available to rent. It is useful for hiking groups to carry a VHF radio or Sat-phone for emergencies. The route can become dangerous in severe storms, mostly in winter. Guidebooks are available for this trail and a good historical book to read on the way is “White Slaves of the Nootka”, written about native life in Yuquot and Tahsis in the late 1700s.



# Tahsis Walking Guide

Whether you're going for a leisurely stroll with the whole family, or looking for something to get the blood pumping, Tahsis is home to a variety of routes and trails with something for everyone.

## Tahsis Original Townsite

Ascending the Cardiac Climb stairs brings you to the old townsite. This neighbourhood is very rewarding for those interested in architecture, as it features old float homes from the 1940's (oldest in Tahsis) and the Heritage Building housing St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church.

Continue on down South Maquinna Drive to Tipperary, then walk around the original townsite to see homes from the 1950's plus a spectacular view of the inlet from Tipperary Park at the top of Princess Victoria View.

As South Maquinna Drive heads down toward the Public Boat Launch, there is a picnic table and sign marking Ubedam Trail... a short hike up to Discovery Crescent and a popular shortcut for locals.



## Tahsis Heliport and Tahsis River Bridges

Back at the head of Alpine View Road is the Tahsis Heliport, and a very walk-able waterfront section that is popular with locals walking their dogs. There is an expansive panorama view of the head of the Inlet, lots of local marine bird life and convenient parking. The bridge close by is a great spot to view spawning salmon going up the river in the fall. Stroll down North Maquinna to the second bridge over the Tahsis River, another great spot to view wildlife, bird life, and spawning salmon.

## Bull of the Woods

A short drive past the old Maquinna Resort you will see a sign for Bull of the Woods trail. This trail is a 1.8km out and back trail that links up with West Bay. It is a beautiful trail that meanders along the shoreline through lush forest with viewpoints and benches along the way. Fun tree identification keeps you guessing species around every corner. This is a lovely walk on the west side of town that offers views of Tahsis Inlet.

## Tahsis Walking Guide

### Leiner River Recreation Site

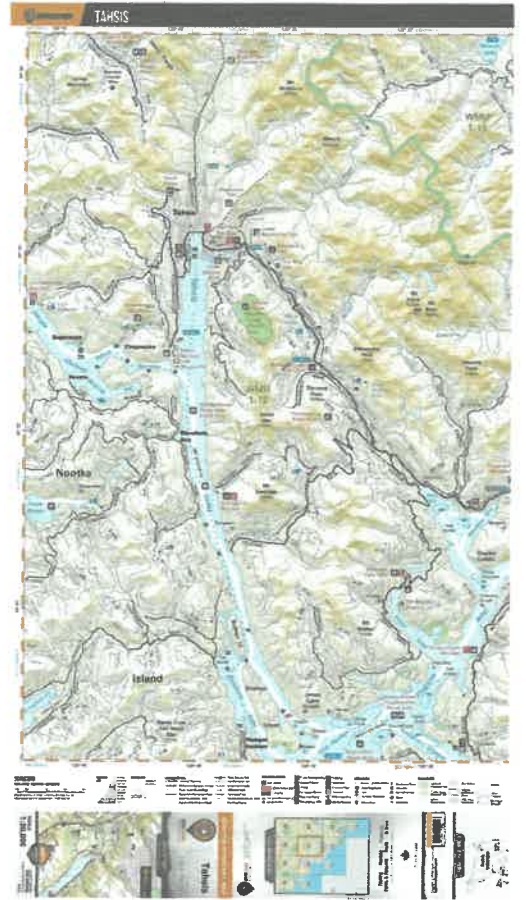
3km (2 miles) out of Tahsis towards Gold River and just before the Leiner River Bridge is the Leiner River Rec Site. Walk around and explore this section of the river, where it expands out into a picturesque little swimming hole with a rope swing. Follow the trail towards town to link up with the Leiner River Estuary Trail.

### Leiner River Estuary Trail

This 2 kilometre long trail provides excellent wildlife viewing opportunities right on the doorstep of Tahsis. This route is a level trail with boardwalks and viewing platforms on the salt marshes and along the Leiner River where it meets the sea.

Wildlife often seen here include Trumpeter Swans, hawks, eagles, seals, salmon and bears. Many birds stop over here on their annual migrations. The trail access is from Tree to Sea Drive, just 500 metres from town and is well marked. There is a parking lot and washroom at the trailhead. This makes for an easy afternoon stroll close to town.





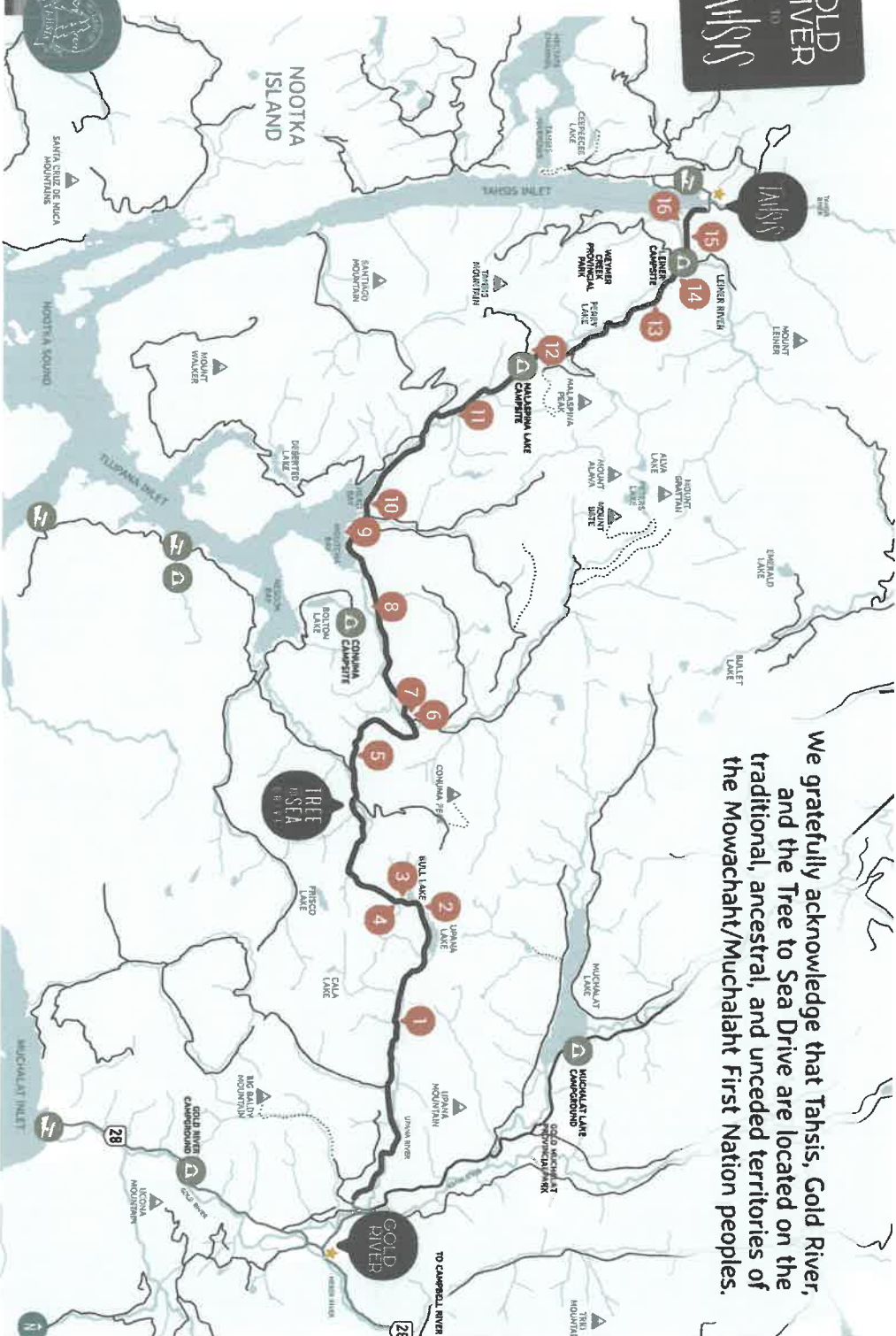
# TREE TO SEA DRIVE

GOLD RIVER TO TAHISIS

## THE ROAD TO ADVENTURE

The road to Tahsis features wonderful, animal viewing areas, glacial sites and scenic vistas. The road is 60km of well maintained gravel road suitable for any vehicle in good condition. Four wheel drive is only needed after heavy winter snowfalls. Please drive at the posted speed, keep right, yield to trucks, and watch for wildlife on the road.

- 1 **GLACIAL FALLS**  
This is a spectacular view of the glacier that once covered the area. The falls are a remnant of the glacier and are a popular spot for photography.
- 2 **YANNA CAVES**  
These are the remains of a prehistoric cave system. The caves are a popular spot for photography and are a great place to learn about the area's history.
- 3 **BULL LAKE SUMMIT**  
This is the highest point in the area. The summit offers a panoramic view of the surrounding area and is a popular spot for photography.
- 4 **MINNESUK WATERFALL**  
This is a beautiful waterfall that flows year-round. It is a popular spot for photography and is a great place to learn about the area's history.
- 5 **CONNAMA RIVER VALLEY LOOKOUT**  
This is a great place to view the Connama River valley. The lookout offers a panoramic view of the surrounding area and is a popular spot for photography.
- 6 **CONNAMA PEAK VIEWPOINT**  
This is a great place to view Connama Peak. The viewpoint offers a panoramic view of the surrounding area and is a popular spot for photography.
- 7 **CONNAMA RIVER RECREATION SITE**  
This is a great place to enjoy the Connama River. The site offers a variety of recreational activities, including fishing, canoeing, and hiking.
- 8 **CONNAMA RIVER HATCHERY**  
This is a great place to learn about the area's history. The hatchery is a popular spot for photography and is a great place to learn about the area's history.
- 9 **NOOTKA BAY RESORT**  
This is a great place to enjoy the Nootka Bay. The resort offers a variety of recreational activities, including fishing, canoeing, and hiking.
- 10 **HEAD BAY WILDLIFE VIEWING**  
This is a great place to view wildlife. The viewing area offers a panoramic view of the surrounding area and is a popular spot for photography.
- 11 **THREE SISTERS WATERFALLS**  
These are three beautiful waterfalls that flow year-round. They are a popular spot for photography and are a great place to learn about the area's history.
- 12 **MALASPINA LAKE**  
This is a beautiful lake that is surrounded by mountains. It is a popular spot for photography and is a great place to learn about the area's history.
- 13 **THE PRESIDENTS TREE**  
This is a tree that is said to have been planted by a president. It is a popular spot for photography and is a great place to learn about the area's history.
- 14 **LEINER RIVER BOULDER PATCH TRAIL**  
This is a great place to enjoy the Leiner River. The trail offers a panoramic view of the surrounding area and is a popular spot for photography.
- 15 **LEINER RIVER RECREATION SITE**  
This is a great place to enjoy the Leiner River. The site offers a variety of recreational activities, including fishing, canoeing, and hiking.
- 16 **LEINER RIVER ESTUARY TRAIL**  
This is a great place to enjoy the Leiner River estuary. The trail offers a panoramic view of the surrounding area and is a popular spot for photography.



We gratefully acknowledge that Tahsis, Gold River, and the Tree to Sea Drive are located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Mowachah/Muchahlt First Nation peoples.

*Schedule 5*

**KWANTLEN RIVER HISTORY**  
**RM ADVENTURE**



April 2026

Mayor & Council Tahsis:

I missed a few salient points in my previous letter, so I am adding them here.

**Tahsis Farm – Lookout & Ceepeecee Lake Trail**

On the right-hand side of the road, there is a sign for the above noted trails. 50' off the road, the trail disappears in the undergrowth, so the sign should be removed, or the trail should be remade.

There are many tourists that look forward to hiking the trails that are listed online, or designated with signage. They are no doubt extremely disappointed to discover the trails are inaccessible, difficult to find, or require serious bushwhacking to hike. I think it is safe to say these tourists will not be coming back. It is therefore important to remove signage and online information for inaccessible trails, and make the accessible trails easier to find, and at least moderately maintained.

My other concern is the sale of local artisan items at the Info Centre. I emailed an inquiry regarding this, but never received a reply, so I do not know if this is actually going to happen. Last year, TAC was asked if they would like to use the Info Centre instead of the church to sell their artisan items. TAC declined, not because they did not want to sell there, but because your request was unreasonable. TAC was told they could sell there if they manned the Info Centre (8 hrs a day and 7 days a week) in lieu of rent. Working there one day is approximately comparable to what the church charges them for annual rent. Any hours worked after one day would therefore be nothing but slave labour to save the Village thousands of dollars, with little, if any, benefit to TAC members.

This year you advertised artisans could sell at the Info Centre, but you did not contact TAC regarding same. This would conflict with, and directly impact TAC sales at the church. It seems to me, that TAC should have been consulted before you made a decision to sell artisan items at the Info Centre. Perhaps if you made a more reasonable offer than you did in the previous year, then TAC might be interested. I think it would be appropriate to contact either Elsie Horvath, or Stephanie Olsen regarding your intentions. I am sure you are not deliberately trying to compete with TAC, and possibly put them out of business.

Yours truly,  
Lynn Gordon